

IDAHO EMPLOYMENT

Volume 20.5

Idaho Department of Labor

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LAST PRINTED EDITION OF IDAHO EMPLOYMENT

The presses are running down and the Internet pages are gearing up.

Due to severe federal budget cuts, the Idaho Department of Labor will no longer print and mail paper copies of the newsletter to our subscribers, thus saving up to \$20,000 annually. We will continue to "publish" a monthly newsletter online at lmi.idaho.gov with a link on that page.

Please send or call us with your e-mail address so we can add you to the monthly distribution. And remember, each Idaho Department of Labor office in the state has computers with Internet access for the public at all local offices during work hours.

Send us your e-mail address to donna.corn@labor.idaho.gov or call her at (208) 332-3570 ext. 3205.

PANHANDLE STUDENTS EXPERIENCE SKILLED PROFESSIONS

Hard Hats, Hammers & Hot Dogs was the theme of a major event in April at the Kootenai County Fairgrounds that introduced northern Idaho youth to blue-collar jobs that pay well. The event was prompted by increasing demand for construction and manufacturing workers in Kootenai County. Those industries face a severe shortage of skilled workers as the present work force retires. More than 400 high school and middle school students from Kootenai County school districts attended, and 15 local companies supplied heavy equipment for the students to operate outdoors, such as dozers, excavators, a large drill rig, pump rig/conveyor, sucker truck, backhoes and other large machinery items.



Inside, 26 companies had hands-on booths. The welding station was very popular and many of the students were driving 16-penny nails into a number of beams. Students had the opportunity to try their talents at putting up dry wall, laying brick, doing cement work and using power tools while they learned about the opportunities in various construction and manufacturing professions.

This first ever hands-on career day was organized by the Kootenai County Workforce Development Task Force, chaired by Vicki Isakson, assistant manager for the Idaho Department of Labor's Coeur d'Alene office.

The two organizations and others co-hosted a Job Fair with 88 employers and 3,000 job seekers. Job seekers met with industry leaders in the hospitality, medical, manufacturing, financial, service, sales and many other sectors. Tom Hamilton, general manager for Empire Airlines, said he would have been happy to find one or two qualified aircraft mechanics. By the end of the day he was thrilled that he met five qualified applicants who would be scheduled for interviews. Kat Oswald, owner of the in-home care service Comfort Keepers, was equally thrilled with the volume of applicants. She ran out of applications in the first two hours and called the office for more. Job seekers were excited as well. It was a great opportunity to meet directly with businesses. As one job seeker said, "It is one thing to apply online; it's another to meet with the representative face to face."

See more photos on page 2.



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More than 400 students tried out heavy equipment and tools of other trades in northern Idaho's Hard Hats, Hammers and Hot Dogs event in April.



IDAHO

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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or to the Regional Economists noted in each area news section.

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Idaho's Workforce Development System

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Schedule of unemployment insurance seminars for 2008. See related article on page 1.

CITY	DATE (s)	LOCATION
Lewiston	May 21	Red Lion Inn - Seaport Annex, 621 21st St.
Idaho Falls	May 14	Red Lion Hotel on the Falls 475 River Parkway
Pocatello	May 15, May 16 (a.m. session only on 16th)	Holiday Inn, 1399 Bench Road
St. Maries	May 22 (9 a.m. - 1 p.m. ses- sion only)	Eagle's Hall, Main Street
Twin Falls	May 28, May 29 (a.m. session only on 29th)	Herrett Center at the College of Southern Idaho, 315 Falls Ave.
Boise	June 3, June 4	Red Lion Hotel - Boise Downtown 1800 Fairview Ave.
Meridian	June 5, June 6	District Services Center - Joint School District No. 2 (former Jabil Building), 1303 E. Central
Nampa	June 10, June 11	BSU Canyon County Center, Room 207-2nd Floor 2407 Caldwell Blvd.

No More Openings May 14



WAGE INCREASES IN 2007 REFLECT SLOWDOWN IN IDAHO'S ECONOMY

Idaho's unemployment rate may have been edging toward a record low in early 2007, but the tightening labor market that pushed average wages up nearly 6 percent in 2006 was already easing and pressure on wages in 2007 was down dramatically.

Data from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages showed the average wage for the over 660,000 workers covered by the unemployment insurance program rose just 2.8 percent from 2006.

Unlike the two previous years as the Idaho economy built a head of steam with new and expanding employers and higher paychecks, wage increases in 2007 began moderating at the very beginning of the year and then settled in at between 2 percent and 3 percent for the final three quarters of the year. Inflation last year was 4.1 percent.

The Quarterly Census of Wages and Employment includes only employment covered by unemployment insurance. While that is over 90 percent of the jobs in Idaho, it does not include about 50,000 jobs — many agricultural workers, college student-work participants, railroad employees, the military, employees of religious organizations and many insurance and real estate agents — which are included in the more comprehensive statistics analyzed

each year by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. The bureau will issue its 2007 average wage estimates in a year.

But while the figures from the two sources are not identical, they track closely in most cases.

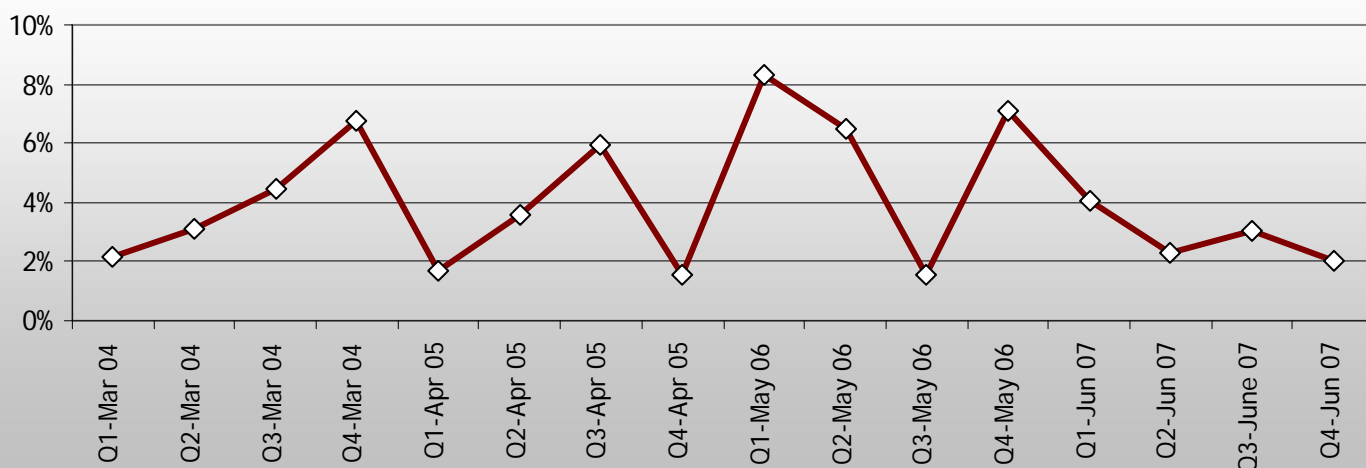
The average wage for covered employment in Idaho was just over \$33,500 in 2007, up only \$900 from 2006. That was just half the dollar wage gain between 2005 and 2006, when the so-called average covered wage rose 5.8 percent.

Only 12 of the state's 44 counties had average wages increases in 2007 higher than in 2006, and half of those were only a fraction of a percentage point higher than in 2006.

Although the unemployment rate was at a record low for the last nine months of 2007, monthly nonfarm job growth was sliding significantly. What had been 5 percent growth rates in mid-2006 turned to less than 2.5 percent by fall 2007 and under 2 percent in December.

Construction, whose high paychecks were a major force behind Idaho's expansion in 2005 and 2006, fell off dramatically in 2007. While commercial construction and remodeling pretty much held their own — permits were down just 500 from 2006 — there were 4,400

Percentage Increase in Average Quarterly Wage, Year Over Year.
(Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages)



fewer housing permits issued in 2007 than in 2006 and nearly half the number in 2005. Values were down over \$800 million from 2006 and nearly \$1.3 billion from 2005.

Three counties reported a decline in the average covered wage. But the 3.8 percent drop in Bonneville County was the result of 2,600 scientific research and development jobs at the Idaho National Laboratory being reallo-

cated to Butte County, the actual site of the federal laboratory. Those jobs averaged over \$70,000 a year.

The general economic slowdown, especially in construction, resulted in declines in the average covered wage in both Boise and Camas counties.

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2007 Covered Employment Wages		
County/Area	Average Wage	% Change from 2006
Statewide	\$33,520	2.79%
ADA	\$40,087	2.09%
ADAMS	\$26,040	0.04%
BANNOCK	\$29,146	2.78%
BEAR LAKE	\$21,659	6.82%
BENEWAH	\$32,040	3.51%
BINGHAM	\$28,308	4.34%
BLAINE	\$36,231	2.36%
BOISE	\$24,368	-5.88%
BONNER	\$30,365	0.71%
BONNEVILLE	\$30,657	-3.84%
BOUNDARY	\$28,170	3.34%
BUTTE	\$70,483	2.32%
CAMAS	\$26,825	-4.04%
CANYON	\$29,627	1.05%
CARIBOU	\$41,402	6.09%
CASSIA	\$27,017	4.94%
CLARK	\$31,339	4.93%
CLEARWATER	\$29,135	1.98%
CUSTER	\$33,995	3.78%
ELMORE	\$26,728	3.01%
FRANKLIN	\$24,113	3.58%
FREMONT	\$26,087	1.23%
GEM	\$25,784	3.63%
GOODING	\$27,478	7.45%
IDAHO	\$28,505	1.10%
JEFFERSON	\$24,124	6.92%
JEROME	\$27,505	3.12%
KOOTENAI	\$31,060	4.31%
LATAH	\$28,310	7.96%
LEMHI	\$25,347	3.11%
LEWIS	\$23,657	1.77%
LINCOLN	\$27,822	2.40%
MADISON	\$24,556	0.75%
MINIDOKA	\$26,912	5.17%
NEZ PERCE	\$32,957	4.30%
ONEIDA	\$22,604	1.78%
OWYHEE	\$26,118	3.43%
PAYETTE	\$27,899	3.53%
POWER	\$30,857	5.14%
SHOSHONE	\$31,646	7.01%
TETON	\$29,399	9.69%
TWIN FALLS	\$27,381	3.28%
VALLEY	\$29,977	2.42%
WASHINGTON	\$24,889	2.93%

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages



ASK THE ECONOMIST

ABOUT PERSONAL INCOME

There are two frequent questions people ask about the economy — “**WHAT IS INCLUDED IN TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME?**” and “**HOW IS PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME FIGURED?**”

Income and how it is measured provides some insight into what is happening in the economy and what might happen down the road. But knowing what analysts mean when they talk about personal income and per capita personal income is often a challenge.

Total personal income is the income earned by workers and business people, from government and business transfer payments and from investments. It is the sum of net earnings, rental income, personal dividend income, personal interest income and transfer payments. Total personal income is measured before the deduction of personal income taxes and other personal taxes and is reported in current dollars. There is no adjustment for price changes up or down.

Earned income consists of compensation for services including wages, salaries, benefits and proprietors' income. Contributions, or taxes, for government social insurance such as Medicare are subtracted, and an adjustment is made to convert earnings from the place of work to the place of residence. That adjustment reflects commuting patterns between counties.

Property income represents payment of dividends, interest and rents to people with capital assets, adjusted for the depreciation of those assets.

Transfer payments represent payments to persons and nonprofit institutions for which no current services are performed. These include government payments for retirement and disability insurance benefits, medical payments like Medicare and Medicaid, unemployment insurance, welfare, veterans' benefits and federal grants and loans to students. Business transfer payments primarily include pensions, corporate gifts to nonprofit institutions and liability payments for personal injury. Farm-related transfer payments are not included here but are counted in farm proprietors' income.

Per capita income is often used as a simple measure of the wealth or purchasing power of the population of an area compared to other areas. The income estimates provide one of the best ways of understanding growth, decline and other changes in local economies. It is useful to examine the trends of the major components — earned income, property income and transfer payments — to

gauge the changing structure, performance and composition of local economies. Per capita personal income is the annual total personal income of residents of the county divided by resident population as of July 1. The most recently released per capita personal income is for 2006 so it is total personal income for 2006 divided by the resident population as of July 1, 2006. For example, Latah County's total personal income in 2006 was \$974.7 million and its population on July 1, 2006, was 36,126 so its per capita income in 2006 was \$26,980.

Net earnings, a component of total personal income, are earnings by place of residence. They are calculated from net earnings by place of work — the sum of wage and salary disbursements, other labor income and proprietors' income — minus personal contributions for social insurance plus an adjustment to convert earnings by place of work to place of residence. Contributions to social insurance, retirement plans and Social Security are not included.

The inclusion of wage and salary disbursements by place of work results in data that does not intuitively appear correct. For example, the wages paid by the Idaho National Laboratory are higher than most wages paid in Butte County. However, because the majority of INL's work force is located in Butte County, the wages paid to the employees are included in Butte County's total personal income. Butte County has a very small population base at 2,744. The employment at INL is nearly double the actual population.

Another example is Blaine County, which is home to large number of wealthy individuals resulting in total personal income near \$1.283 billion with a resident population on July 1, 2006, of 21,411. This concept is presented in a formula below for both Butte and Blaine counties:

Total Personal Income / Population = Per Capita Income
BUTTE COUNTY —

$\$67,150,000 / 2,744 = \$24,472$ Per Capita Income.

BLAINE COUNTY —

$\$1,283,347,000 / 21,411 = \$59,939$ Per Capita Income.

The income estimates are compiled by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis at the national, state, regional, metropolitan, non-metropolitan and county levels. Annual county estimates are available from 1969 through 2006. This comprehensive, long-term economic data provide a consistent basis to measure and compare economic activity for Idaho and its counties.

A recap of the 2006 income data shows the nation's per capita income was \$36,714, up 5.6 percent from \$34,757 in 2005, while Idaho's per capita income increased 4.7 percent from \$28,301 in 2005 to \$29,920. Idaho's per capita income ranked 44th in 2006 and was 81 percent of the national level.

AREA INCOME

The table on pages 7 and 8 provides personal income and per capita income for the United States, Idaho, counties, metropolitan and nonmetropolitan portions of Idaho and the smaller micropolitan areas for 2004, 2005 and 2006. This data also include information on three areas that share boundaries with other states — Logan, Utah, which includes Franklin County; Jackson, Wyo., which includes Teton County; and Ontario, Ore., which includes Payette County.

Personal income in three out of Idaho's five metropolitan statistical areas grew faster than the national rate from 2005 to 2006. The Boise City-Nampa, Coeur d'Alene and Idaho Falls urban centers had personal income increases well above the 6.7 percent national average. Two of the five also experienced per capita income gains that topped the national average of 5.6 percent.

The federal estimates show Boise-Nampa metro area's personal income had the greatest increase at 10.2 percent. Coeur d'Alene was next at 9.4 percent, followed by the Idaho Falls area at 8.4 percent.

The Lewiston area at 6 percent and the Pocatello area at 5.8 percent trailed the national average.

Coeur d'Alene had the highest growth rate in per capita income at 6.1 percent followed by the Boise metro area at 5.8 percent. These were the only two areas that exceeded the national average.

Idaho's economic expansion, fueled by the population boom, was in full force during 2006, but that trend should slow during the last quarter of 2007 and into 2008. New businesses were locating in Idaho and taking advantage of an attractive business climate ripe for economic gain. The increase in both personal and per capita income was due to a combination of factors including strong construction activity, which helped boost employment and wages, and the recovery of the manufacturing and high-tech sectors following significant declines from the 2001 national recession.

Income estimates were made for 361 metropolitan statistical areas across the country. Personal income for Coeur d'Alene totaled more than \$3.8 billion in 2006, Idaho Falls was at \$3.5 billion and Pocatello was just over \$2 billion. The Boise City-Nampa area had the state's highest personal income at just over \$19 billion. Lewiston had the lowest metropolitan total at under \$1.8 billion.

On a per capita basis, the Boise-Nampa area had the state's highest metropolitan average at \$33,774 while

Pocatello had the lowest average at \$25,490. Nationwide the per-capita income was \$36,714.

The economic expansion also had a positive impact on the smaller micropolitan areas in Idaho. However, only two exceeded the national increase. The estimates show Rexburg's personal income had the greatest increase at 7.8 percent followed closely by Blackfoot at 7.7 percent. The Burley area had the smallest growth rate at 3.6 percent.

On a per capita basis, the Twin Falls area was highest at \$27,439 while Rexburg, which hosts thousands of students at Brigham Young University-Idaho, was lowest at \$16,900.

COUNTY INCOME

The Bureau of Economic Analysis provides personal income and per capita personal income for 3,111 counties in the nation. The percent change in personal income ranged from St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana's 648 percent increase to Slope County, North Dakota's 43 percent decrease. A sharp drop in the expenses of proprietors and owner occupied housing accounts for most of the growth in nine of the 10 fastest growing counties, all in Louisiana. Expenses in those counties had been extraordinarily high in 2005 because of the property destroyed and damaged by Hurricane Katrina and other disasters that are treated as an expense when deriving personal income.

Personal income declined in 227 counties. In all but five of these counties farming can account for the entire decline. The largest percentage losses in personal income were in counties in the Dakotas and Texas.

Per capita personal income ranged from \$110,292 in New York County, New York, to \$9,140 in Loup County, Nebraska.

For Idaho's 44 counties, the figures showed slightly stronger growth in the metropolitan areas of the state. Personal income rose 9.3 percent in the metropolitan area compared to 6.8 percent in the rural ones.

The following list includes highlights of the 2006 data:

- Ada County had the highest personal income at \$14,627 million and has had the highest since 1969.
- Valley County had the largest percentage increase in personal income at 13.6 percent due to growth in construction activity.
- Camas County had the lowest personal income at \$25 million.
- Clark County was the only county that experienced a drop in personal income, from \$22,784,000 in 2005 to \$22,357,000 in 2006, a 1.9 percent decrease due to a dramatic decrease in farm proprietor's income.
- Blaine County had the highest per capita income at \$59,939 and has since 1994. It is home to the Sun Valley/Ketchum resort complex.

- Adams County had the largest percentage increase in per capita at 9.3 percent.
- Madison County had the lowest per capita at \$15,166, continuing its 44th ranking since 1969. Madison County, with a population of 36,202 in 2006, is the home to Brigham Young University – Idaho that has over 10,000 students resulting in a low per capita income because many students either work low-paying jobs or do not work during the school year.
- Only three counties – Blaine, Ada and Valley – had per capita incomes above the national level.
- Ada County per capita personal income at \$40,455 is the most populated and economically developed in Idaho.
- Bonneville County's income benefits from the higher wages of the Idaho National Laboratory.
- Gooding County's income has been influenced by the number of large dairies that have been added to the area's income.
- Canyon County is Idaho's second most populated county and is growing very rapidly, which has a ten-

dency to dampen increases in per capita income. Farm proprietor's income has experienced over an 80 percent decrease since 2001 dropping from 20 percent of the total proprietor's income to just under 4 percent. Changes in the industrial base have also kept income lower in Canyon County as the percent of manufacturing dropped from 24 percent to 18 percent.

Detailed information can be found by going to lmi.idaho.gov. This Web site provides data for the state, counties and areas from 1969 to 2006. There is also a link to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis Web site for additional information including earnings by industry, which is valuable in understanding local economic trends. For a quick glance at the general economic trends of a county or state, the bureau also provides one-page reports called BEARFACTS. Data are also available for all states.

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Personal Income and Per Capita Personal Income by County for Idaho 2004-2006

Area name	Personal Income (millions of dollars)				Per capita personal income (dollars)				Rank in State
	2004	2005	2006	Percent change 2005-2006 ²	2004	2005	2006	Percent change 2005-2006 ²	
United States ³	9,711,363	10,284,356	10,968,393	6.7	33,123	34,757	36,714	5.6	.
Metropolitan portion	8,478,159	8,998,018	9,611,205	6.8	34,733	36,483	38,564	5.7	.
Nonmetropolitan portion	1,233,204	1,286,338	1,357,188	5.5	25,119	26,115	27,403	4.9	.
Idaho	38,079	40,355	43,800	8.5	27,361	28,301	29,920	5.7	.
Idaho Metropolitan Portion	25,871	27,552	30,124	9.3	29,038	29,947	31,655	5.7	.
Idaho Nonmetropolitan Portion	12,208	12,802	13,676	6.8	24,377	25,308	26,698	5.5	.
COUNTIES									
Ada	12,566	13,255	14,627	10.3	37,646	38,165	40,445	6.0	2
Adams	91	92	99	7.8	26,191	25,950	28,358	9.3	9
Bannock	1,885	1,946	2,056	5.6	24,101	24,749	25,871	4.5	23
Bear Lake	129	134	136	1.5	21,202	22,514	23,019	2.2	35
Benewah	211	222	239	7.5	23,690	24,531	25,911	5.6	21
Bingham	902	924	996	7.7	21,219	21,554	23,105	7.2	33
Blaine	1,069	1,161	1,283	10.6	50,902	54,945	59,939	9.1	1
Boise	169	188	204	8.1	23,342	26,038	27,287	4.8	15
Bonner	934	1,028	1,121	9.1	23,873	25,746	27,767	7.8	11
Bonneville	2,533	2,784	3,026	8.7	28,528	30,670	32,348	5.5	4
Boundary	195	201	215	6.9	19,073	19,348	20,243	4.6	43
Butte	66	66	67	2.4	23,669	23,514	24,472	4.1	28
Camas	26	28	30	8.3	25,161	26,360	28,421	7.8	8
Canyon	3,082	3,347	3,691	10.3	19,652	20,467	21,511	5.1	41
Caribou	181	181	188	4.1	25,490	25,960	27,436	5.7	13
Cassia	509	529	538	1.7	24,256	25,286	25,894	2.4	22
Clark	23	23	22	-1.9	25,939	25,571	24,649	-3.6	26
Clearwater	200	210	227	8.0	24,181	25,439	27,405	7.7	14
Custer	96	100	108	8.2	23,456	24,875	26,381	6.1	20

Table continued on page 8

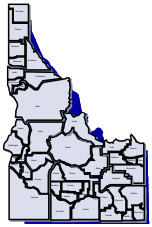
Personal Income and Per Capita Personal Income by County for Idaho 2004-2006 *(continued from page 7)*.

Area name	Personal Income				Per capita personal income				Rank in State
	(millions of dollars)			Percent change 2005-2006 ²	(dollars)			Percent change 2005-2006 ²	
	2004	2005	2006		2004	2005	2006		
Elmore	702	719	751	4.5	24,108	25,116	26,476	5.4	19
Franklin	261	273	277	1.5	21,936	22,669	23,004	1.5	36
Fremont (includes Yellowstone Park)	246	252	272	8.1	19,888	20,495	21,959	7.1	38
Gem	331	357	394	10.3	21,088	22,270	24,163	8.5	29
Gooding	429	439	440	0.2	30,153	31,028	31,069	0.1	5
Idaho	330	343	362	5.6	21,593	22,596	23,753	5.1	31
Jefferson	434	451	483	7.1	21,157	21,234	22,063	3.9	37
Jerome	511	536	552	3.1	26,859	27,847	28,092	0.9	10
Kootenai	3,177	3,482	3,808	9.4	26,108	27,449	29,134	6.1	7
Latah	895	917	975	6.2	24,944	25,483	26,980	5.9	17
Lemhi	177	179	191	6.5	23,101	23,212	24,636	6.1	27
Lewis	95	98	100	2.1	26,284	27,127	27,576	1.7	12
Lincoln	94	95	101	6.4	22,154	21,576	23,031	6.7	34
Madison	481	510	549	7.6	14,469	14,638	15,166	3.6	44
Minidoka	369	382	406	6.2	19,606	20,582	21,904	6.4	39
Nez Perce	1,039	1,068	1,134	6.1	27,470	28,053	29,405	4.8	6
Oneida	74	78	83	5.7	18,301	19,094	20,266	6.1	42
Owyhee	236	247	260	5.2	21,901	22,987	24,155	5.1	30
Payette	502	527	572	8.6	23,555	24,260	25,827	6.5	24
Power	156	154	165	7.6	20,519	20,301	21,535	6.1	40
Shoshone	319	325	347	6.9	25,082	25,367	26,946	6.2	18
Teton	165	178	201	12.9	23,034	23,937	25,697	7.4	25
Twin Falls	1,721	1,815	1,942	7.0	25,356	26,205	27,259	4.0	16
Valley	254	284	323	13.6	32,671	34,955	37,236	6.5	3
Washington	212	226	239	5.4	21,346	22,663	23,648	4.3	32
AREAS									
Blackfoot, ID Micropolitan SA	902	924	996	7.7	21,219	21,554	23,105	7.2	10
Boise City-Nampa, ID (MSA)	16,385	17,394	19,175	10.2	31,246	31,925	33,774	5.8	1
Burley, ID Micropolitan SA	878	911	944	3.6	22,056	23,074	24,013	4.1	9
Coeur d'Alene, ID (MSA)	3,177	3,482	3,808	9.4	26,108	27,449	29,134	6.1	4
Idaho Falls, ID (MSA)	2,967	3,236	3,509	8.4	27,144	28,879	30,396	5.3	2
Jackson, WY-ID Micropolitan SA	1,881	2,044	2,242	9.7	71,195	76,405	81,629	6.8	
Lewiston, ID-WA (MSA)	1,595	1,639	1,737	6.0	27,212	27,781	29,152	4.9	3
Logan, UT-ID (MSA)	2,435	2,559	2,684	4.9	21,294	21,906	22,663	3.5	
Moscow, ID Micropolitan SA	895	917	975	6.2	24,944	25,483	26,980	5.9	6
Mountain Home, ID Micropolitan SA	702	719	751	4.5	24,108	25,116	26,476	5.4	7
Ontario, OR-ID Micropolitan SA	1,122	1,145	1,226	7.0	21,427	21,720	23,093	6.3	11
Pocatello, ID (MSA)	2,041	2,100	2,221	5.8	23,784	24,358	25,490	4.6	8
Rexburg, ID Micropolitan SA	727	762	821	7.8	15,940	16,166	16,900	4.5	12
Twin Falls, ID Micropolitan SA	2,232	2,351	2,495	6.1	25,685	26,562	27,439	3.3	5

Released by Bureau of Economic Analysis, April 24, 2008

1 - Per capita income was computed using Census bureau midyear population estimates.

2 - Per change calculated from unrounded data.



Idaho Economic News

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATE REPORTS

March 2008

March brings the transition from winter to spring and is the month that Idaho's nonfarm payroll employment swings up from the winter doldrums toward its summer peak. This year the beginning of the upward climb is weaker than it has been for the past few years. An increase of 5,100 nonfarm jobs pulls March up just 0.81 percent above February, marking the first time since 2003 that February-to-March job growth has fallen below 1 percent. Since 1980, however, March job growth from February has been below 1 percent 11 times. But in only five of those years did the annual growth rate also fall below 1 percent as it has this year. The last occurrence was in 2003 when year-over-year growth was just 0.67 percent.

This March compared to March 2007 revealed a fractional gain of 0.22 percent, only 1,400 additional nonfarm jobs. This is the worst annual showing since 2002, when payrolls fell 1.28 percent from 2001. Since 1980, there have been only eight years with a March that had similar or worse performances than 2008.

The majority of Idaho's industrial sectors behaved in a similar pattern to their average for this time of year. Two

key industries however, construction and manufacturing, made dramatic departures. Construction added just 800 jobs from February. The 1.78 percent increase from February is the smallest in 19 years. Construction payrolls were also 7.3 percent below March 2007. See Figure 1 below and Figure 2 on page 10.

Manufacturing continued to slide with a 0.95 percent decrease from February to keep jobs 5.7 percent below last year. This is the eighth consecutive month that manufacturing employment in Idaho has declined. Since August 2007, the sector has shed 4,900 jobs. It is one month shy of tying the nine-month stretch set from September 2002 to May 2003, when Idaho manufacturing payrolls were reduced by 4,600 jobs.

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IDAHO'S BUSINESS EMPLOYMENT DYNAMICS

New Business Employment Dynamic figures from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics are providing more evidence that Idaho's economy was slowing markedly early in 2007.

The figures, which record job gains from new and expanding private businesses and job losses from closed or contracting private businesses, found Idaho essentially broke even during the April-June quarter last year. It was the first quarter the state had not shown a significant net job gain since summer 2004.

Seasonally adjusted, new and expanding businesses created 44,803 jobs in 2007's second quarter while 44,881 jobs disappeared with closing or contracting

Figure 1: March 2007 to March 2008 Change in Employment Growth.

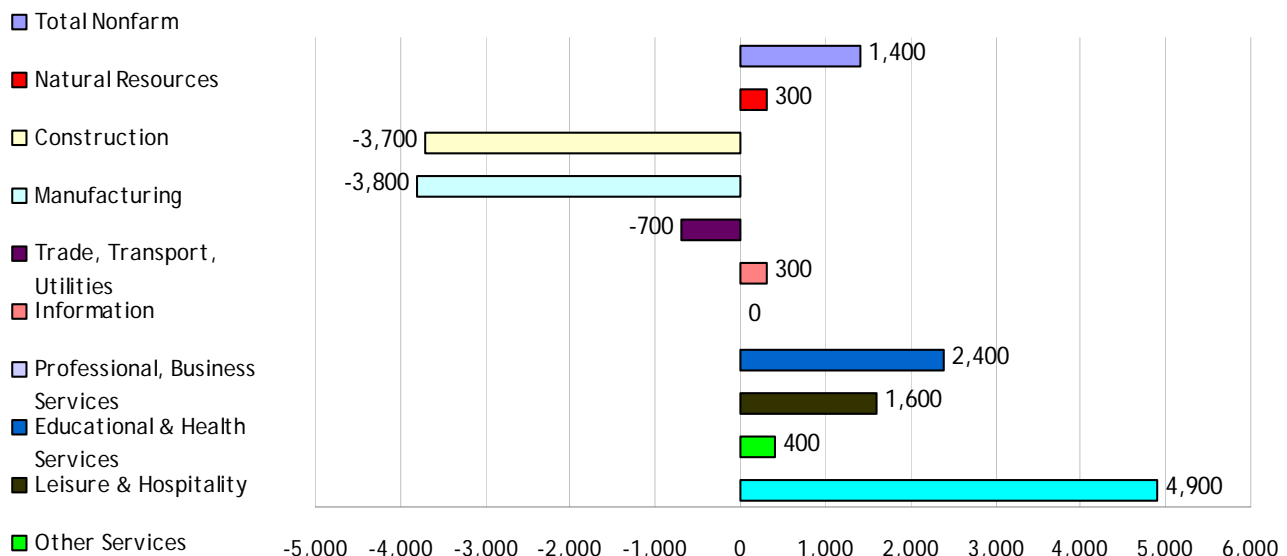
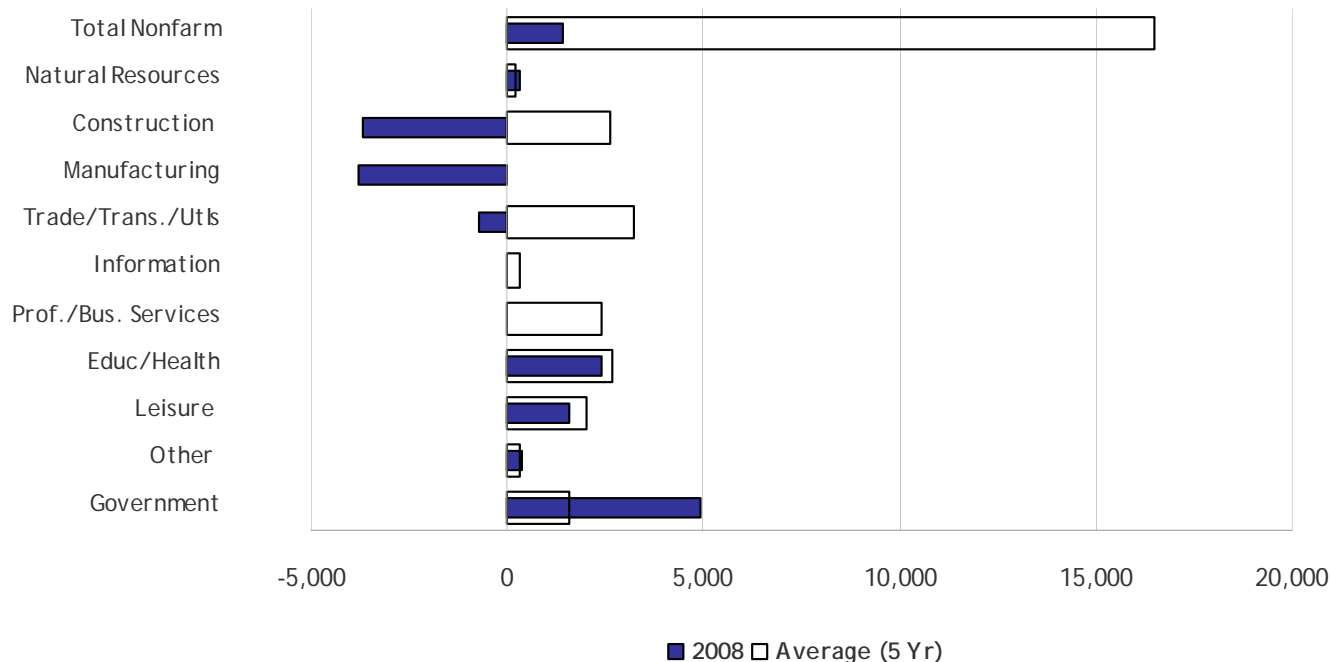


Figure 2: First Quarter 2008 Employment Growth Compared to First Quarter Five-Year Average.



businesses. In the previous quarter Idaho posted a net job gain of 7,661.

At the same time nationally, the economy gained 241,000 jobs. Payrolls grew by 7.6 million from new and expanding business in April to June 2007 while the number of job losses from closing and contracting private establishments was 7.4 million.

The Business Employment Dynamics data series include job gains and losses at private sector establishments. The data represent the change in the number of jobs over time, which is the net result of increases and decreases in employment that occur at all businesses in the economy.

Chart 1 illustrates this ever-changing dynamic and compares Idaho trends to national trends. Analyzing state and national data shows the net change in jobs is sensitive to the business cycle. There were more losses than gains during the recession of 2001 nationally and in Idaho.

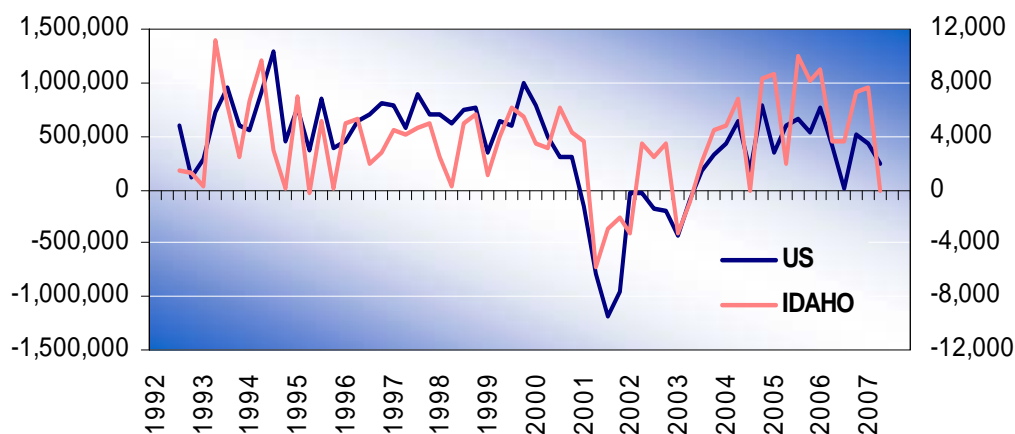
Breaking down gross job gains and losses by sector for the nation, education and health services led the way with a net gain of 88,000

jobs. Professional and business services followed with a net job gain of 67,000. At the other end, manufacturing lost 45,000 jobs, and construction shed 41,000. For the first time since 2003, financial services reported a net job loss of 31,000.

Job gains and losses by sector for Idaho are not available.

Over the second quarter of 2007, nationally Alaska had the highest gross job gain of 11.9 percent followed by Wyoming at 10 percent. Montana came in third with 8.4 percent, and Idaho fourth at 8.1 percent. The slowest

Chart 1: Net Change in Jobs, Seasonally Adjusted, Idaho and the U.S. 1992-2007.



Source: BED/Bureau of Labor Statistics

growing states were Arkansas at 5.6 percent of gross job gains, Hawaii at 5.8 percent and Illinois at 5.9 percent. On the job loss side, Illinois and Connecticut tied for the lowest rate of gross job losses at 5.3 percent with Hawaii following at 5.4 percent. Alaska and Wyoming, both at 10 percent, Montana at 8.6 percent and Idaho with 8.1 percent had the four highest job loss rates.

While Chart 2 shows the Idaho economy slowing down in comparison to previous quarters, the labor market was still strong. Job gains and job losses during second quarter of 2007 indicated that Idaho's economic growth was trending down.

For more information on the Business Employment Dynamics series, go to the Web site at www.bls.gov/bdm/.

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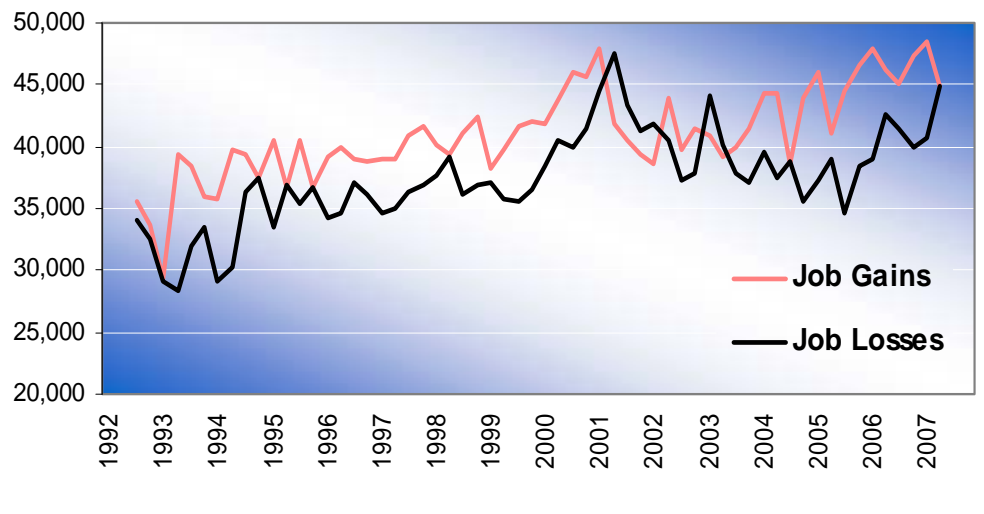
IDAHO CAREER INFORMATION SYSTEM TEAM JOINS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

The Idaho Career Information System, whose mission is to help Idahoans make successful education and occupational decisions by providing comprehensive career information, resources, and services, is now a division of the Idaho Department of Labor.

The Idaho Career Information System produces career development and planning products that include comprehensive online information detailing over 500 occupations, more than 60 Idaho public and private colleges and postsecondary schools, many thousands of national and state scholarships, U.S. colleges, universities and trade schools and other career options. Its products are used in nearly every Idaho high school counseling office and career center as well as at other public and private agencies that help adults and youth with career decisions. Staff at all Department of Labor offices use eCIS with their clients to educate them about their alternatives and help them take steps toward finding their best occupation fit, job training or education choice. A new product, CIS Jun-



Chart 2. Gross Job Gains and Losses, Seasonally Adjusted, Idaho 1992 to 2007.



Source: BED/Bureau of Labor Statistics

ior, will be available to schools and agencies this fall. CIS Junior is designed for middle school-age students, with easy-to-read information, interest surveys and a budgeting "Reality Check" to give them an idea of what jobs pay and the cost of living a certain style of life.

CIS was created over 28 years ago and until recently has functioned as a small organization governed by an interagency Board of Directors that included the directors of the Idaho Department of Labor, Division of Professional-Technical Education and Division of Vocational Rehabilitation along with representatives from the Governor's office, the Office of the State Board of Education and the State Department of Education. CIS is part of a consortium of 17 similar state systems, supported by a national organization that provides programming, some information files and structured planning for future development and improvement.

In response to many changes throughout state government in the past year, the CIS Board was disbanded, the CIS staff was reduced and the organization was moved to the Department of Labor. Assistant Deputy Director Jay Engstrom and Deputy Director John McAllister were instrumental in helping CIS handle the downsizing and the move to the department. CIS staff are located in the Department of Labor Annex.

To learn more about CIS and its staff, investigate eCIS online at www.idahocis.org, find out more about the organization at cis.idaho.gov or drop by the annex and say hello. The CIS group looks forward to adding to the Department of Labor's successes in the field of career information and development.

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TECHCONNECT LAUDS IDAHO'S ENTREPRENEURIAL STARS

The following article was submitted by the TechConnect staff.

The brightest, the biggest stars draw all the attention – the great sports figures, classic actors and actresses, flawless signers, superb artists. Even giants of business and industry come under the heading – industry titans like Bill Gates or Steve Jobs.

But at Idaho TechConnect, different stars shine in the form of entrepreneurs who venture out on their own, leaving the safety and security of their respective industries to prove their own ideas and concepts. Entrepreneurial stars identify a problem, find a solution and then figure out how to market it to customers. Echoing the words of Bo Peabody, co-founder of the venture capital firm Village Ventures, they are either lucky or smart and start companies. Still lucky or smart, they convince others to invest in them and their ideas. These investments allow them to hire employees, define and refine markets, build prototypes, Web sites, widgets and gadgets. Bottom line, these entrepreneurs create and generate wealth in Idaho. This means higher wages, more revenue for infrastructure needs and higher standards of living.

Entrepreneurs in Idaho are not mythic creatures – in fact, Idahoans are really good at coming up with ideas and starting companies. Approximately \$1 billion in research and development funds annually has allowed the state to maintain its number one position in patents per capita over the last five years. In addition, the state leads in the number of net new businesses each year.

Why does this matter? Today's competitive market is global. Innovation and the ability to deliver goods and services more efficiently and effectively are more important than ever. The pipeline of innovation begins with new ideas and discoveries on the research end. Through development, these new ideas are turned into products, goods and services with commercial value. These commercialized products come to market through new startups or existing businesses. As the businesses find success in the market, additional jobs, revenue and wealth are created.



Our entrepreneurial stars perform well at either end of the innovation pipeline. Idaho is not at a loss for new ideas nor in expanding businesses. But there could be improvement in the middle – in the ability to commercialize ideas and turn them into revenue-generating, wealth-creating products.

This middle ground is the sweet spot for Idaho TechConnect. TechConnect's signature event is TechLaunch. The annual educational event teaches entrepreneurs how to pitch their ideas to investors. To date, 29 companies have participated, raising a total of more than \$20 million in research and development and investment funds.

TechLaunch 5.0 will take place May 28-29 at the Doubletree Riverside in Boise. Day 1 features the next generation of entrepreneurial stars. Student teams from university business plan competitions square off for cash prizes and services. Day 2 brings eight companies together from around the state to compete for \$10,000 generously donated by the Idaho National Laboratory. These companies have practiced and pitched and will present to a panel of judges representing various segments of the financing food chain

**Registrations are being accepted
now for TechLaunch 5.0.**

May 28-29, 2008

Doubletree Riverside Boise

www.idahotechconnect.com/services

with one designated as Idaho's newest entrepreneurial star.

Ask entrepreneurs how they started, how they came up with their idea or for their advice on venturing out, and there will not be one secret ingredient to their successes. These entrepreneurs

do not analyze and replicate others' efforts. They simply act. They evaluate, shift direction, transform ideas, strategies and plans. But most importantly, they start. The art of starting brings the mythic nature of the entrepreneur to reality.

For more information on TechLaunch, or to register to attend, visit www.idahotechconnect.com/Services/Raising_Capital/TechLaunch/.





Area and County Developments

PANHANDLE

Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai & Shoshone counties

BENEWAH COUNTY

Learning about jobs. Some Lakeside Middle School students recently spent a day shadowing local workers, learning about the day-to-day duties of medical professionals, attorneys, business managers, graphic designers, educators, information technology experts, police officers, fire fighters and natural resource professionals. The program for eighth graders in the Plummer-Worley School District was organized by Lakeside's Gear Up program and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. As well as offering students first-hand information about job skills and careers, it also helps build partnerships between the school and businesses.

Citylink expands. Citylink, the bus system run by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe that serves the residents of Western Benewah County and the greater Coeur d'Alene-Post Falls area in Kootenai County, continues to expand. March 2008 ridership was at 29,271, up from 17,233 in March 2007. Citylink recently won two federal grants to help it keep up with growing demand. A \$588,000 grant, coupled with a \$139,000 local match, will allow Citylink to build a maintenance facility in Worley. The five-bay facility, which will include a wash area and staff offices, should be completed this summer. A \$225,000 grant will pay for some bus kiosks in the Worley-Plummer area and start an on-demand system to cater to riders in that area who can't get to bus stops and need to be picked up directly at home.

Other developments. Mex Express, a restaurant serving a variety of Mexican food and take-and-bake pizza, opened in April in St. Maries. It also offers take-away and delivery service.

- Stimson Lumber will close its satellite log yard in St. Maries later this year. With the upcoming closure of Stimson's mill in Coeur d'Alene, the yard will not be needed in the future. So far, two St. Maries log yard positions have been cut. Stimson will continue to have a major presence in Benewah County, since it employs 60 people at its mill in Plummer.

BONNER COUNTY

- At the Dover Bay Waterfront Community, the development that is expected to double the population of Dover over the next few years, a marina village market and café are preparing to open. Four new waterfront homes are almost completed, and several new sites were just put up for sale. Nearby, a full-service fitness club including a year-round outdoor swimming pool is under construction. The finishing touches are going on 19 new beachfront bungalows that will be rented.
- Popular Mechanics's May issue lists Dover Bridge as one of the "10 pieces of U.S. infrastructure we must fix now." The steel truss bridge, built in 1937, carries U.S. Highway 2 over railroad tracks. In a recent sufficiency inspection, the bridge rated two out of 100 points. An Idaho Transportation Department inspection report from 2006 lists the bridge structure condition as "intolerable." Last year a chunk of the bridge fell onto the railroad tracks below. About 5,000 cars cross the bridge each day on U.S. Highway 2, a major east-west routes in northern Idaho. At this time, there are no plans to replace the bridge, which would cost about \$25 million.
- At the Bonner Business Center, the business incubator in Sandpoint, another fledgling company is preparing to leave the nest. KBM Enterprises Inc., a computer network services company, is moving out of the center to more permanent space in the Ponderay Events Center. The new space is custom-designed to accommodate KBM's rapidly growing "server farm" and technical lab as well as more comfortable office space for the growing staff.
- A strategic partnership between the Panhandle Alliance for Education and the Lake Pend Oreille School District will pay for hiring a fourth guidance counselor at Sandpoint High School. The new counselor will devote full time to career counseling, reaching out to parents and students, including elementary and middle-school students, to help them plan for the future. The new counselor will ensure that students leave high school with the knowledge of their talents, how to translate their talents into a profession and where to obtain the skills necessary to build a career. The

alliance has committed \$120,000 to the partnership over three years. The first year includes the salary for a full-time certified counselor, startup costs for program development and materials, creation of a career-exploration library and new carpet, paint, furniture and artwork for the counseling center. The district will share the salary costs with the alliance in the second and third years and fully take over all costs the fourth year.

- A recent New York Times article about the growing tendency of youth to take a “gap year” — a year off between high school and college — mentioned the Southern France Youth Institute, based in Sandpoint. The institute is an independent boarding school that provides students with opportunities to immerse themselves in Western European culture and the French language while living in a village in southern France. The coed program takes up to 10 students per semester to the village. The students are in their last two years of high school or taking a year off between high school and college. The institute employs seven people in Sandpoint.
- Despite massive job losses in its traditional mainstay, the lumber industry, western Bonner County continues to see new business starts. Teresa Norton recently opened Corner Pocket Pizza in downtown Priest River.
- Goodwill Industries recently broke ground on a new 16,500-square-foot facility in Ponderay that will incorporate retail space, a program services office and areas for processing donated goods. Goodwill hopes to open in October. The 33 employees at Goodwill’s Sandpoint facility will transfer to the new building and up to six more people will be hired. Goodwill intends to enhance its vocational services helping prepare people with disabilities for jobs.
- Galleria Home Décor, offering unique paintings, statues and decorations, opened in February in Ponderay.

BOUNDARY COUNTY

- Dan Phillips, who spent six years as a trainer for the Iditarod races, returned to his hometown of Bonners Ferry two years ago to start True North Expeditions, one of the fastest-growing tour guide businesses in the Northwest. True North’s 40 huskies and five sleds have taken more than 1,000 people from all over the world on dogsled trips. It’s been booked solid with dogsled tours from November to April. It has also contracted with Boulder Creek and Northwest academies to provide 10-week dogsled training sessions that culminate in a five-day expedition for the schools’ students. True North also offers snowshoeing, backcountry skiing, mountain biking and

rafting tours. In addition, Phillips and his wife Gina recently purchased the Hemlock Resort on the Montana/Idaho border. They plan to re-open this spring as an RV park, motel and restaurant. They also own Epic Promotions, a retail store in downtown Bonners Ferry where they rent and sell outdoor equipment and gear.

- Roger Fraser recently opened a state-of-the-art recording studio in Bonners Ferry. Studio BFI offers services both for sound and video. Using the latest technology, videos are formatted in HD, allowing the capability for television and radio spots. For musicians, it offers full audio CD production. It can help preserve family-heritage photos and use them to create unique video stories as well as providing videography and photography for weddings and other events.

KOOTENAI COUNTY

Stimson closure ends an era. Coeur d’Alene, the city built by mills, is losing its last one. Stimson Lumber announced in March that it would close its DeArmond Mill near North Idaho College in 60 days. Stimson originally had planned to close the mill at the end of 2009. Extremely low lumber prices accelerated the closure. More than 120 people worked at the DeArmond mill in December 2005 when Stimson closed its Atlas mill along the Spokane River in Coeur d’Alene. About 72 workers will be affected by the closure in May.

The mill’s site, which today represents a century of lumber dominance, may soon be a key to the area’s future. Local leaders want to buy the 17 acres to expand North Idaho College’s campus and create a higher education corridor offering satellite programs from Idaho universities. The site’s owner, developer Marshall Chesrown, has agreed to sell the property for cost \$10 million, which the schools are attempting to raise.

Contrary to a few TV and radio reports, the Stimson closure is definitely not the end of mills in Kootenai County. The remaining major mills in the county are Merritt Bros. in Athol, Riley Creek at Chilco, Stimson near Hauser, Whiteman Lumber in Cataldo, Idaho Veneer in Post Falls and Potlatch Corp. in Post Falls.

The Idaho Department of Labor will assist Stimson workers transition into new careers. It will offer job search advice. For those interested in retraining, the dislocated workers program will help pay for classes at North Idaho College and other training providers or help arrange on-the-job training with local businesses.

The closure of Stimson also ends an era for tugboats on Lake Coeur d'Alene. When the lumber mills opened a century ago, tugboats quickly followed. It was a cheap way to deliver huge amounts of logs from the St. Maries area to mills along the lake and the Spokane River. In April, a North Idaho Maritime tug made its last delivery of logs to the DeArmond mill. So, its 12-tug fleet is transitioning into new lines of work — building seawalls and docks for high-end lake homes and marinas. The company may offer charter rides on its tugboats.

From One to Three Wal-Marts in a Year: Wal-Mart, which currently has one store in Kootenai County — a supercenter in Post Falls — expects to have three stores there by next year. The giant retailer expects to break ground on a 200,000-square-foot supercenter in Hayden this summer. It also plans to build a 200,000-square-foot supercenter at a Post Falls retail development anchored by Cabela's. A Wal-Mart spokesperson said the development around Cabela's is expected to be a destination market, drawing people from the Spokane area, Canada, tourists traveling through the region and visitors from Portland and Seattle. The new Wal-Mart supercenter will be well-situated to serve two rapidly growing markets — Post Falls's west side and Liberty Lake just over the Washington border. It expects to break ground toward the end of the year. Supercenters normally employ between 350 and 450 people.

At the casino resort. The Coeur d'Alene Tribe is building a 5,800-square-foot events center next to the clubhouse of its Circling Raven golf course near its casino resort on U.S. 95 outside Worley. When the center opens in May, the resort will rent out the center for meetings and banquets. The resort's banquet staff will cater events at the facility, which will accommodate up to 300 people. The tribe expects to employ 1,000 at the resort by the end of the year. In addition, the tribe is building a 12,000-square-foot golf-cart maintenance and storage building near the clubhouse. Currently, about 100 carts are stored in a building about a half-mile farther away so the new building will save labor, batteries and wear and tear on the carts.

Manufacturers thrive. LA Aluminum Casting Co., a permanent mold aluminum foundry and computerized numerical control machine shop in Hayden, recently was awarded a \$1 million federal contract for components for towable tanks being used by the military to transport water and fuel in Iraq. The tanks carry 3,000 to 5,000 pounds of fuel. It also signed a contract with Berg Integrated Systems in Plummer to supply 6-inch drain and fill fittings for the 210,000-gallon fuel bladders Berg is making for the United

States. LA Aluminum has always made castings for the military and specializes in making nut rings which connect the top of a fuel cell in an airplane with the hose or fitting where fuel is added. It also makes castings for wind power turbines, the nuclear industry and dental equipment. To handle the extra work generated by the new contracts, LA Aluminum just hired four more workers.

- Brandon Lee, founder of By Design Publishing in Hayden, recently launched another venture offering personalized custom printing on demand. Digital Lizard, which already employs 18 people, prints postcards, newsletters, fliers and other promotional materials that it can customize with different names, addresses, messages and graphics without stopping the print run. The company, which operates six high-speed presses, also provides letter insertion, folding and e-mail marketing services. With orders coming in fast and furious, Digital Lizard will hire up to 10 more employees by the end of this year.
- Titan Spring & Wire Products Co. Inc., which makes custom precision springs, stampings, wire forms and value-added assemblies for the aerospace, medical, telecommunications and electronics industries, moved to a new manufacturing facility in Hayden last October after nearly 50 years in California. Soon after the move, Titan began working on earning new production-standard certifications that qualify Titan to make precision wire-formed parts for the country's major aerospace companies. The certifications for excellence in quality control, training and auditing establish Titan as a top-tier supplier and helped the high-tech manufacturer gain compliance with Boeing Quality Management System requirements so it now can work with any division of Boeing. As a certified manufacturer, Titan Spring must work with certified vendors. That requirement will persuade its local suppliers to pursue certifications, enhancing the region's manufacturing operations. Jobs Plus, the local economic development organization that recruited Titan, sees it as a significant step toward a culture of quality for the region's work force and the region's emerging aerospace manufacturing cluster. Titan, which initially anticipated hiring 10 new employees in its first year in Idaho, already has added 15.
- Transtector Systems, a Hayden manufacturer of power-surge protection and signal integrity devices, is seeking certification so it can sell to more aerospace and military customers. While increasing emphasis on quality, its operations team still achieved 99.8 percent on-time delivery while billing a 44 percent increase in orders over last year. Transtector,

which employs more than 150 employees, is seeking additional employees, including regulatory/compliance specialists.

- A Rathdrum Prairie company that makes foam insulation and packaging materials is undertaking a \$3.4 million expansion. FMI-EPS LLC, formerly known as Foam Molders Inc., is building a 31,000-square-foot plant next to its current 45,000-square-foot plant north of Post Falls. This will allow double production. It plans to hire five to six additional workers when the expansion is completed in July. It currently employs 17 people.
- Juanita Carmack, who founded Taco Chic salsa in Rathdrum two years ago, recently was named one of the top woman entrepreneurs in the nation by Country Living magazine. Using the freshest ingredients and a recipe handed down in her family for more than a century, Carmack makes the popular salsas.

The latest retail developments. A Mazda car dealership opened in early April on Coeur d'Alene's auto row along Highway 95. Northern Idaho has been without a Mazda dealer since the Post Falls dealership closed a few months ago. Team Mazda of Coeur d'Alene employs about 20 people.

- Pampered Pet Boutique, a store selling food and supplies for cats and dogs and offering grooming and boarding, recently opened in Post Falls. Red Robin recently opened one of its popular hamburger restaurants at Coeur d'Alene's Riverstone development. It employs nearly 150 people.
- Three Coeur d'Alene businesses are demonstrating the importance of keeping things fresh for customers by undergoing major transformations this spring.
 - A Taco Bell on Appleway was torn down in early April for a larger, up-to-date building that will open in July.
 - Macy's department store is adding 7,000 square feet formerly occupied by Maurice's clothing store, which recently downsized. Macy's currently has 44,000 square feet at Silver Lake Mall. When the new space opens this summer, Macy's will expand the accessories, women's apparel, shoes and children's clothing department.
 - Fred Meyers is spending \$10 million to renovate its 170,000-square-foot, 10-year-old store on Highway 95 to increase convenience for customers, add new features and save energy. When renovations are completed in July, the 230-employee store will introduce a sushi bar and a drive-through pharmacy.

SHOSHONE COUNTY

Silver and gold blaze. The silver is definitely back in the Silver Valley, and there may be gold in those hills too. The mining industry added about 200 jobs between

March 2007 and March 2008. About 710 people now work in the industry, twice as many as in the industry's low point in 2003. The reopening of the Sunshine Mine in December was responsible for about 70 of those jobs, and another 70 probably will be added there between now and the end of the year. The Lucky Friday and the Galena mines each also added dozens of workers. The rest of the new workers are exploring for gold in the Murray area and silver in the Silver Valley. Prices of lead and zinc are so high that the Lucky Friday Mine would make a profit just on the sales of its byproducts these days. So the \$17.48 an ounce it could receive for silver would be pure profit. Companies are sharing the wealth with workers through profit-sharing and related mechanisms. The average annual wage in Shoshone County's mining industry in 2007 was \$60,734.

Tourism also shines. Lookout Pass Ski & Recreation Area on U.S. 95 on the Idaho-Montana border ended its 2007-2008 season in early April. It set a new attendance record of roughly 63,000, breaking last season's record of 56,500. Its new North Star lift provided access to new expert terrain on the mountain's north side. The 502 inches of powdery snow that fell from early December through March also made skiers and boarders happy. Lookout expects to see 25,000 people bike the Route of the Hiawatha this summer.

- Construction is nearly complete on the football-field-sized indoor water park at Silver Mountain Resort in Kellogg. Silver Rapids Waterpark is scheduled to open May 30. Skylights and windows will allow people to enjoy the beauty of the natural surroundings, while staying a toasty 84 degrees. The park offers seven water slides, a family raft ride, a lazy river and a continuous surf wave suitable for boogie boarding and stand-up surfing.
- For the first time since it was built in 1989, the Wallace Inn is under renovation. The \$600,000 improvement will help the Silver Valley's largest lodging facility keep its edge. All 63 guest rooms are getting new carpets, furnishings and entertainment centers with DVD players, while new furniture and carpets also grace the restaurant, conference rooms and lobby. Owner Rick Shaffer also plans to provide computers, printers and Internet access in the new business center along with a printer for guests staying on business.
- Many tourists may be delighted that Chris Kostas decided to follow in his father's footsteps. Kostas, the owner of the Kingston Five Ranch Bed and Breakfast, noticed his guests had few restaurants to choose from and none was open on Mondays

prompting him to open a Greek restaurant. His father owned a Greek restaurant in Chicago when Kostas was growing up. On March 31, My Big Fat Greek Deli began serving meals seven days a week in Pinehurst. He plans to eventually add an outdoor section.

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NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO

Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce counties

CLEARWATER COUNTY

- The Idaho Department of Labor office in Orofino hosted 300 students from five high schools and two junior highs at the fifth annual career fair, where the students learned about higher education opportunities and the daily routines of 28 careers including hairdressers, masseuses, bankers and loggers. The Nez Perce Tribe, Lewis-Clark State College's outreach advisory committee and the local Kiwanis club partnered with Labor to make it all happen. A representative from the local radio station played music at the event while the local power company demonstrated safety procedures and the students got a chance to climb a rock wall.
- The Big Eddy Marina on Dworshak Reservoir soon will install barriers to protect the marina from waves, allowing additional houseboat moorage. A federal grant and funding from Idaho Parks and Recreation Department are paying for the installation. It begins a \$12 million infrastructure improvement project that includes water, sewer and power upgrades that could attract a private company to operate the marina. The Clearwater County Economic Development Council is spearheading the project in the belief that an increase in houseboats at the marina will provide economic benefits. A 2006 feasibility study on a houseboat rental business found the lake could handle 150 houseboats. The council sees the Dworshak project as the beginning of a larger economic development plan that would have Orofino and Dworshak become a destination supported by small manufacturers with recreation focus. Other key players in this are the Corps of Engineers, the Orofino Chamber of Commerce, the Idaho Parks and Recreation Department, the city of Orofino and Dworshak State Park.

IDAHO & LEWIS COUNTIES

- Three Rivers Timber, the lumber mill in Kamiah, permanently cut 18 jobs in April and announced another 17 jobs would be cut in July. The mill will continue to produce 80 million to 90 million board feet

of lumber each year with 85 instead of 120 people. In April, it discontinued a line that processes large logs. Now the mill will only use equipment for small logs installed four years ago. In July, the mill will complete installation of new planing and grading equipment. This winter, the mill had reduced its work shifts from 40 to 32 hours to save money. The job cuts allow the mill to return to 40-hour weeks for those who remain.

- The high snowfalls this winter, followed by cool, rainy weather into late April, have kept many loggers out of work for two to three times longer than normal in the winter and spring. And some may never return to work. The curtailment of mill production throughout the region has reduced the demand for logs. Some mills are not accepting any new logs. Unfortunately, it looks like U.S. housing construction will remain depressed for many more months, and the resulting job losses at mills and in logging will continue.
- Northern Idaho's last remaining drive-in theater, Sunset Auto Vue outside Grangeville, will open for the summer. Severe wind damage destroyed the screen at the 53-year-old drive-in last November. Owner Chris Wagner has ordered a new all-metal screen, which will be installed in the middle of May. Wagner also is renovating the Blue Fox Theatre in Grangeville and installing newer, larger seats with cup holders and more leg room.
- The region's growing tourism industry is making up for some of the jobs lost in the forest industry. Salmon River Helicopters in Riggins, which spent many years in the external load business, will offer helicopter tours of Hells Canyon, Seven Devils and other Salmon River area sites.
- The Christmas Tree Ranch south of Grangeville on U.S. Highway 95 is now Bear Den RV Resort. The property formerly featuring Christmas lights and plastic snowmen all year now is a year-round vacation spot. The owners recently completed building four cabins that sleep six to eight people each. In a few years, they hope to add a store.

LATAH COUNTY

High-tech grows in Moscow. A 10,000-square-foot building under construction at the east edge of Alturas Technology Park provides tangible evidence of the growth of the high-tech sector in Moscow. The new building will house Alturas Analytics and Anatech Labs, which have outgrown their 7,200-square-foot space at the park.

- Anatech Labs began in 1992 doing water tests and other environmental work. About eight years ago its founders brought in a new partner and diversified

into conducting pharmaceutical testing under the name of Alturas Analytics.

- Economic Modeling Specialists Inc., the developer of Web-based tools for economic and work force analyses, also is on the verge of outgrowing its leased space in the Alturas park.
- Anticipating future growth, EcoAnalysts recently moved from 2,500 square feet in downtown Moscow to a 9,000-square-foot suite in Eastside Marketplace near another high-tech venture, First Step Internet. EcoAnalysts identifies tiny plant and animal life in water samples, which helps diagnose the health of lakes or rivers. Founded in 1995 by Gary Lester, the business now receives samples from all over the Western Hemisphere and employs 35 people in Moscow and another 10 in field offices.
- Between 1997 and 2007, the number of high-tech jobs increased from 322 to 460 in Latah County while Whitman County now has 1,363. The growth there reflects that of Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, which in 1997 had 230 employees and now has 1,100 in Pullman. The proximity to the University of Idaho and Washington State University has made the success possible. Almost every area high-tech company has some link to the universities.

Shopping mall to go up at the state line. Hawkins Companies of Boise plans to break ground in a month or two on its 714,000-square-foot Stateline Project shopping center just over the Washington state line on the road between Moscow and Pullman. A Lowe's home improvement center is expected to anchor the center.

NEZ PERCE COUNTY

Manufacturing holds its own in tough times. Contradictory forces are keeping jobs in the manufacturing sector stable. The fall in the value of dollar over the last two years is persuading more people to buy American manufactured products, which is boosting the sales of some manufacturers. On the other hand, rising energy and raw commodity costs are hurting some manufacturers. A slowdown in spending by American consumers and businesses is also slowing orders at some manufacturers. That's especially true for the lumber industry, which is severely depressed because of the huge decline in U.S. home construction over the past two years. In addition, a shortage of skilled welders and other manufacturing workers is reducing the ability of some manufacturers to expand.

- The Lewiston area's largest manufacturing employers continue to do well. Potlatch's pulp, paper and consumer products divisions performed well in 2007. Demand and prices remain strong. Potlatch is successfully moving sales away from large bulk

rolls that have a relatively low profit margin to finished goods, which make more money.

- High demand for ammunition by the U.S. Army and other users continues to fuel growth at ATK in Lewiston. The bullet maker now employs more than 900 people and plans to expand.
- Potlatch Corp. is considering spinning off its pulp business, creating two distinct, publicly traded companies – one focused on Potlatch's timberlands and real estate and the other on manufacturing pulp, paperboard and tissue. Potlatch converted its timberlands into a real estate investment trust in 2006, but its stock still is treated as a manufacturing company's. The spin-off would allow Potlatch to put more energy into its core business – its timber holdings. If the split occurs, the deal would likely be finalized during the fourth quarter, company officials said. A search team has been hired to look for a new chief executive for the pulp-based manufacturing firm.

Commercial development near the Port of Clarkston.

Wal-Mart plans to build a 184,110-square-foot supercenter west of Costco in Clarkston. The supercenter will carry groceries as well as the other items found at its discount stores like the one in Lewiston. It probably will open in mid-2009 and employ 300 to 400 people. Wal-Mart officials anticipate the store will generate 9,000 to 10,500 new car trips per day to the location.

- West of the Wal-Mart site, close to the riverfront and west of Granite Lake Park, Rooster's Landing is building a new 300-seat restaurant with a large deck for outdoor seating. It should be completed this fall. The owner of its existing building on the west end of the port is seeking another restaurant to occupy the space.
- East of Costco, a 10,000-square-foot office complex is nearing completion. It will house Remax Executives and professional and retail tenants. Late this fall, 11 townhouses – 1,800 to 2,000 square feet each – should be completed at a gated community to be called The Pointe at Two Rivers.
- A 35,000-square-foot shopping center and office complex may be constructed on Port Drive in Clarkston west of the Quality Inn and across the street from the Wal-Mart supercenter. A mix of retailers and professional and business services offices would fill the two-story building.

Other developments. Horizon Air is switching to larger planes for flights between Lewiston, Seattle and Boise in a move designed to cut fuel costs. It recently reduced the number of daily weekday flights from five to three between Lewiston and Seattle, though the number of flights between Boise and

Lewiston remains the same. But because of the larger planes, the overall number of available seats for flights between the three cities will grow from 185 to 228 on weekdays.

- Tribune Publishing Company Holdings, the publisher of the Lewiston Morning Tribune and the Moscow-Pullman Daily News, is installing a Uniset 75 press following the construction of a 32,000-square-foot addition to its building in downtown Lewiston. The press will be able to print 48-page newspapers with full color on every page. It also is much faster than the current press and will be able to do commercial printing work such as regional publications.
- Swift Transportation is expanding the truck driving school it opened in 2005 in North Lewiston. To accommodate a growing number of students, Swift is doubling dock alleys to four. The school now trains about 600 students each year. Swift is trying to train more of its own drivers because the retention rates of their students are better than those who learn elsewhere. The school includes three weeks of course work in Lewiston and another six weeks on the road with a mentor who helps new drivers learn things such as the details of how certain distribution operations function. The starting wage for drivers is typically about \$36,000 per year. Cost for the course is \$3,900 and the money is deducted from the paychecks of new employees for 13 months. They get reimbursed for the course if they stay with Swift for 26 months.
- Albertsons is spending \$6.5 million to renovate the two stores it operates in the Lewiston-Clarkston Valley without adding square footage to either. After the renovations are finished in August, each store will offer more natural and organic products, a new aisle of frozen food and a made-to-order pizza bar.

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SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO

Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Valley & Washington counties

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

BOISE/NAMPA METRO AREA

- MPC Corp. of Nampa recently made public a contract it has secured with the Defense Logistics Agency as its only supplier of desktop, notebook and laptop computers. Sales from the agreement are expected to top \$10 million.

March 2008 Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for Southwestern Idaho Counties

County	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unemployed	Percent Unemployed	Number Employed
Ada	195,260	5,409	2.8	189,851
Adams	2,222	168	7.6	2,054
Boise	3,756	147	3.9	3,609
Canyon	82,373	2,912	3.5	79,460
Elmore	11,102	350	3.2	10,752
Gem	7,401	293	4.0	7,109
Owyhee	4,795	78	1.6	4,717
Payette	10,471	371	3.5	10,101
Valley	5,326	288	5.4	5,038
Washington	5,125	152	3.0	4,973
Statewide	756,169	22,327	3.0	733,842

- According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the Boise-Nampa Metropolitan Statistical Area ranked 13th in the nation for growth from 2006 to 2007. The population of the metro area rose 20,000 to 588,000 on July 1, 2007. The area is comprised of Ada, Canyon, Gem, Boise and Owyhee counties.
- Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center is laying off 40 employees to counteract an increase in bad debt, falling payments from health insurers and other unspecified financial problems. Saint Alphonsus still employs just over 3,400 people. The laid-off employees have administrative jobs not directly involved in patient care.
- Ontario, Ore.-based Treasure Valley Community College plans to expand its Caldwell campus and will break ground on a new facility this spring. Local leaders such as Caldwell East Urban Renewal, the Caldwell/Canyon County Economic Development Council, Norfleet Developments and Freehold Development encouraged the school to increase local enrollment because of the quality of its programs and because the school operates without any local taxpayer support. The new building will be located at the Sky Ranch development off U.S. Highway 20-26. The Caldwell/Canyon County Economic Development Council is donating \$300,000 for the school's first-year lease, and Caldwell East Urban Renewal has agreed to follow suit for the next four years.
- Boise-based Intermountain Gas Co., which serves 300,000 natural gas customers in southern Idaho, is for sale. Increased interest from other companies and industry trends toward consolidation of utilities prompted the decision. Company officials do not believe the sale will result in layoffs or increased rates for consumers.
- The Boise Airport served 3.3 million people in 2007, up from 2.8 million in 2004. That was an 18 percent

increase in passenger traffic in just four years. With increasing use has come a multitude of proposed improvements although money remains an issue. The most pressing may be additional parking within walking distance of the terminal. A thousand parking spaces will be added to the airport's shuttle lot this summer, but the distance to the terminal is a drawback for travelers. In addition, the airport would like to add another runway and relocate Orchard Street to accommodate future expansion.

- CradlePoint Inc. with approximately 40 employees in Boise has been sold to British Columbia-based Sierra Wireless for \$21.8 million cash and \$8.2 million in Sierra stock. CradlePoint makes wireless networking devices for the cellular industry such as docking cradles, routers and software programs. Sierra Wireless has indicated that it intends to keep CradlePoint in Boise.
- Nampa-based MPC Computers had a better year in 2007 and has made some changes to further improve in 2008. MPC recently reported a net loss of \$11.5 million for 2007, down significantly from \$58.7 million in red ink in 2006. MPC's purchase of Gateway last year was partially responsible as sales hit \$365 million in 2007, up from \$285 million in 2006. MPC also announced the closure of Gateway's Nashville manufacturing plant, idling 153 workers in Tennessee and moving the work to Juarez, Mexico's Flextronics Computing facility. According to company officials, MPC employs just over 500 people in Nampa and they will not be affected.
- Concordia University in Portland intends to open a law school in Boise in fall 2009 for up to 50 students. The new school could be accredited by 2012 when those first students would graduate. Administrators at Concordia are raising up to \$4 million to open the Boise school. After the initial startup, university officials say the school will be self sustaining through tuition.
- Tamarack Resort's troubles are now affecting Boise as well. The resort in Donnelly closed its Boise office, putting 20 people out of work so cutbacks at the resort itself could be avoided.
- The Idaho Board of Education unanimously approved the University of Idaho's plan to start a law school in Boise. The first step is to assess costs and other logistical details. The plan should be presented to the board this summer. Similar to Concordia University, the University of Idaho wants to have classes available by fall 2009.
- Locomotive manufacturer MotivePower of Boise has won a \$95 million contract to build 26 locomotives for the Maryland Transit Administration. That will ac-

count for 10 percent of the work for the next year for MotivePower's parent company, Pennsylvania-based Wabtec. MotivePower currently has 750 employees, more than double its 2004 work force, and according to company officials will not be hiring any more workers for production of this latest order. Valley County

- Tamarack Resort in Donnelly has been plagued by numerous problems since a bankruptcy filing and subsequent pair of lawsuits by Credit Suisse, the resort's main creditor that is owed over \$250 million. One of the lawsuits would allow Credit Suisse to foreclose on the property. In addition, Tamarack is also late on its property taxes, owing over \$7,000. The resort has had over \$13 million in liens filed against its property by contractors who have not been paid. It recently laid off full-time employees deemed non-essential along with seasonal employees who are laid off every year after the winter season. According to Tamarack officials, laid-off employees will for now keep their benefits.

ELMORE COUNTY

- Rising land costs and no access to financing forced Alternate Energy Holdings to relocate its proposed \$4.5 billion nuclear power plant from Owyhee County 15 miles east across the Snake River into Elmore County. The company has been given six months to come up with the money to buy the new 1,400-acre tract for \$15 million. Alternate Energy Holdings still intends to file its application to build the plant with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission by the end of the year.

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SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO

Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka and Twin Falls counties

COMMUTING PATTERNS

With the price of fuel rising astronomically, the commuting patterns of south central Idaho become more intriguing. Will independent westerners in love with space and nature continue to commute an hour each day? It's anyone's guess and could depend on government subsidies for alternative energy, continued subsidies for hybrid vehicles and the growth of wages and jobs in commuter corridors. The Census Bureau's Local Employment Dynamics program uses 12 different sources to collect data on commuting patterns and industries. Table 1 on page 21 shows the Commuting Shed for individuals commuting to work in Twin Falls County. The la-

bor pool can be re-examined in light of these commuting patterns to see if there is a drain of skills and labor that can be tapped possibly with the lure of higher wages, benefits or a particularly appealing job or company. The Census Bureau has information that is current to 2004 but has scheduled an update this July with additions of 2005 and 2006 data. Commuting patterns are very dynamic, especially in a growing economy, and the data can never be fully up-to-date because of lags in the collection process. In south central Idaho, there are almost 4,000 workers who travel less than 10 miles from outside Twin Falls County to work in the county. There are approximately 2,000 workers traveling 40 miles or more to work in Twin Falls County, the majority commuting from the Minidoka-Cassia County area and a lesser number from Gooding County.

In summary, the employers in Twin Falls may see the price of fuel as a deterrent to retaining employees who live elsewhere or an incentive for their workers to relo-

cate to Twin Falls, which would help the housing market. Either way, at some point, the price of fuel whittles away any wage gains realized earlier in accepting work away from home or in an area with more career potential.

THE ELASTICITY PRINCIPLE

The principle of economic elasticity is being tested in our current economy as consumers react to scarcity and price fluctuations. In basic economic terms, elasticity measures the proportionate change between supply and demand of consumer goods — what consumers will buy in relationship to price fluctuations. In just the past six months numerous goods have increased in price yet remained in demand. Gasoline, for example, has always been considered somewhat inelastic — as the price increases, consumers may make accommodations to cut back but typically there are no significant decreases. It is considered a necessity for everything from transporting goods to transporting kids to school and workers to their jobs. But it is more elastic in some areas of the nation where public transportation or carpooling are available and convenient. There is also some bundling of errands and trips that will cut back on demand to an extent but not to a significant degree.

Salt, whose demand is essentially inelastic, is priced so low that its purchase is irrelevant to the budget and hard to substitute.

Goods considered elastic show a direct ratio between price and consumer demand. Eating out at restaurants, for example, decreases when food prices increase.

In a third category, the demand for a good changes in direct proportion to price, as in the movie industry. If prices increase, some consumers will cut back on going to the movies, but the consumers who continue attending make up the difference because they are paying a higher price.

Regarding high gas prices, people tend to view their vehicles in Idaho as a means of independence, and with rural lifestyles, the vehicles must be filled up to ensure they can keep their active lifestyle all the time, not only on payday. The choice of vehicles will most likely be affected the most by the rising cost of fuel. Diesel trucks that ran on cheaper fuel five years ago now cost more at the pump than gasoline vehicles. In some households, the diesels are collecting dust as the smaller trucks or new hybrids with tax write-offs are considered. This seems to be more the exception in south central Idaho as the pick-up trucks and SUVs serve practical and lifestyle purposes like hauling lumber, hay, livestock, kids, trailers and toys. The distances are so far that bicycles and walking are not normally feasible. Taxis and shuttles are available but with the rising cost of fuel, the fares are on the rise as well. The question is highly individual — is gasoline an elastic or inelastic good in Idaho households?

Table 1: Residences of Workers Who are Employed in Twin Falls County	
2004	Count
All Primary Jobs	28,267
Job Counts in Cities/Towns Where Workers Live	Count
* Twin Falls, Idaho	11,173
* Boise City, Idaho	1,053
* Buhl, Idaho	1,046
* Kimberly, Idaho	769
* Jerome, Idaho	755
* Burley, Idaho	382
* Filer, Idaho	355
* Pocatello, Idaho	351
* Nampa, Idaho	330
* Idaho Falls, Idaho	241
* All Other Locations	11,812
Job Counts in Counties Where Workers Live	Count
* Twin Falls, Idaho	19,095
* Jerome, Idaho	2,000
* Ada, Idaho	1,557
* Gooding, Idaho	778
* Canyon, Idaho	675
* Cassia, Idaho	652
* Minidoka, Idaho	567
* Bannock, Idaho	476
* Bonneville, Idaho	362
* Kootenai, Idaho	164
* All Other Locations	1,941
Job Counts in States Where Workers Live	Count
* Idaho	27,315
* California	255
* Washington	108
* All Other Locations	589
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, LED on the MAP	

Table 2 shows the elasticity of a variety of goods and services in our economy – luxury items, substitutable items or items perceived to have less importance during an economic contraction. When money is tight, those can be the first to go.

Source: Economics: Private and Public Choice, James D. Gwartney and Richard L. Stroup, eighth edition 1997, seventh edition 1995; primary sources: Hendrick S. Houthakker and Lester D. Taylor, Consumer Demand in the United States, 1929-1970 (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1966, 1970); Douglas R. Bohi, Analyzing Demand Behavior (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1981); Hsaing-tai Cheng and Oral Capps, Jr., "Demand for Fish" American Journal of Agricultural Economics, August 1988; and U.S. Department of Agriculture.

TWIN FALLS/JEROME COUNTIES

- The city of Twin Falls is closing in on an agreement to purchase Pristine Springs, a trout farm located in the canyon to the west of the Perrine Bridge. The deal provides additional water rights to meet arsenic reduction requirements and provide sufficient water for 20 years of future growth. The \$26 million price tag is being covered by the city, water users in the form of debt financing, the state Department of Water Resources and ground water pumpers.
- Buhl has its own resident inventor who has patented a device for individuals who are less mobile and need assistance to stretch their reach for the toilet paper. The Tissue Trolley is designed by John Cato, a member of Idadea Industries, who has identified his market as assisted living care facilities, home care givers, hospitals, nursing homes and single family homes needing specialized accommodations.
- The College of Southern Idaho intends to break ground for its new \$21 million health sciences building this summer. The Planning and Zoning Commission has approved the project with the condition that a pedestrian bridge be added to link the original campus to the new facility, ultimately creating a campus in the shape of an eight. The building has been designed with 'green' in mind, ensuring that shade and sun are used to their full potential to conserve energy. It is also the first campus in the state to have a building certified Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green, which entails third-party verification of the green rating. The building is financed with state money.
- Newspapers are facing dire times with increased usage of the Internet replacing traditional means of garnering news. Lee Enterprises has announced it will permanently shut down the press for papers covering Shoshone and Rupert due to declining subscriptions. News in these communities will be covered more extensively in its remaining publications, the Times-News and the South Idaho Press. In addition

to closing the Minidoka County News and Lincoln County Journal, the Wood River Journal has been sold to an Idaho investment group that will continue to publish the newspaper focusing on Blaine and Camas counties.

Table 2: Elasticity of Demand, where 0 = completely inelastic.

Goods	Estimated Elasticity of Demand
<i>Inelastic</i>	
Salt	0.1
Matches	0.1
Toothpicks	0.1
Airline travel, short-run	0.1
Gasoline, short-run	0.2
Gasoline, long-run	0.7
Residential natural gas, short-run	0.1
Residential natural gas, long-run	0.5
Coffee	0.25
Fish (cod) consumed at home	0.5
Tobacco products, short-run	0.45
Legal services, short-run	0.4
Physician services	0.6
Taxi, short-run	0.6
Automobiles, long-run	0.2
<i>Approximately Unitary Elasticity</i>	
Movies	0.9
Housing, owner occupied, long-run	1.2
Shellfish, consumed at home	0.9
Oysters, consumed at home	1.1
Private education	1.1
Tires, short-run	0.9
Tires, long-run	1.2
Radio and television receivers	1.2
<i>Elastic</i>	
Restaurant meals	2.3
Foreign travel, long-run	4.0
Airline travel, long-run	2.4
Fresh green peas	2.8
Automobiles, short-run	1.2 - 1.5
Chevrolet automobiles	4.0
Fresh tomatoes	4.6

- The expansion of Pioneer Floors Carpet One is an indicator of the stable construction market in south central Idaho. The company on the fringe of downtown Twin Falls will have more warehouse space to handle higher volume discounts for customers. Meanwhile, it's providing design, sales and service in a showroom that pops with fresh ideas on everything from window coverings, counter tops and flooring options to room décor.

MINI-CASSIA AREA

- Another dairy permit has been granted to the same producer within a month's time. This time it is for a 3,800 head in the Malta area. P Bar S will soon operate three dairies off Idaho Highway 81.
- The High Desert Nordic Association, which partners with the Forest Service, Magic Mountain Ski Resort and the Idaho Parks and Recreation Department for a Free Ski Day each year, has won the Sawtooth National Forest Award of Excellence. In addition, the group grooms Nordic ski trails, hosts a Web site dedicated to trail and safety information, provides educational safety trainings and assists with search and rescue.
- The first gallon of ethanol was brewed at Pacific Ethanol's plant in Burley in April and production continues around the clock. However, construction on Renova Energy's ethanol plant in Heyburn remains stalled by financial problems. The lenders have extended their foreclosure deadline to May 19.
- The city of Burley has approved testing the Simplot Burley Processing Plant for hazardous materials with asbestos the chief concern. The new High Desert milk processing plant needs the sewer line running to Simplot but is not interested in the plant itself. The city is getting involved on the possibility that High Desert will give it the Simplot plant for its economic development efforts. It will cost \$6,225 to determine the potential liability from hazardous materials.
- Water availability should be average, possibly above average this year. Cooler temperatures and precipitation this spring have slowed the snowmelt to normal levels so that the spring run-off will occur in May and June, on track with irrigation and recreational demands. This is a bit of a surprise for water trackers since January's outlook was for a much drier forecast—75 percent of average for the year.
- The Albion Normal School, successfully purchased at auction in 2007, is on its way to becoming a retreat. The latest hurdle was asbestos in four of the buildings and lead in the soil. Fortunately, the Department of Environmental Quality has developed programs that provide some restitution in the form of

grants for those cleaning up their sites. The retreat is anticipated to be officially open to the public in July.

- Heyburn has approved annexation of the land targeted for a new Cassia County airport. The owners wanted to avoid Cassia County using eminent domain to take the property north of Interstate 84 near Burley. Community leaders need a new airport to replace the existing one that the Federal Aviation Administration says fails to meet safety standards.

JEROME/GOODING COUNTIES

- Jerome's Crossroad's Pointe off Interstate 84 on U.S. Highway 93 has sold almost 20 percent of the Phase 1 lots and sale of another 10 lots is pending. St. Benedict's Hospital will start construction of its new hospital in a year, and Jiffy Lube has committed to build on a frontage lot on Highway 93. The Wingate Hotel has scheduled a ribbon cutting for May 5. Twin Stop convenience store and gas station has purchased a lot, but a construction timeline has not been determined.
- The Idaho Dairyman's Association and Idaho Cattle Association won a court order that Jerome County lift the moratorium on confined animal feeding operations, also known as CAFOs. The groups convinced a judge that proper procedures were not followed in extending the moratorium. Jerome County intends to ask the court to reconsider awarding legal fees to the dairy and cattlemen, who are now moving to Gooding County to contest the strict standards it enacted last summer. The local opposition has prompted some dairies to relocate to other states with lots of land to create distance between neighbors and fewer odors and environmental problems.
- New digs for the Valley Co-Op will grace the streets of Jerome. The new store will be much larger at 35,000 square feet and will offer new products such as a biodiesel, a drive through coffee bar and a larger convenience store to complement its primary business of selling agricultural products. The co-op expects to add 10 to 30 workers, providing full-time employees medical and retirement benefits. Sales have increased on average by 30 percent annually since 1991, and there are stores in Buhl, Gooding, Jerome, Shoshone, Twin Falls and Wendell. Membership tops 5,000, and the cost to join is a mere one-time fee of \$5.
- Jerome had the grand opening for the new middle school with State Superintendent Tom Luna as keynote speaker. His agenda includes ensuring middle school curriculum is 'rigorous and relevant.' One of the most appealing aspects of the new school is the cafetorium where students' hot lunch purchases are tracked by scanning their finger prints.

BLAINE/CAMAS COUNTY

- A 5th District judge has ruled that conflicts of interest among Camas County officials were so egregious as to prohibit the county from processing land use applications. The county must now design a new land use ordinance.
- Warm Springs Road in Ketchum could become congested in the very near future, particularly if developments like Warm Springs Ranch Resort are built. The proposed hotel resort on a grand scale would be a major cause of congestion. A draft study projects that by 2025, there will be 12,688 trips per day on Warm Springs Road.
- Ketchum's local option tax is looking good this February after taking a beating last fall due to the wild fire prompting evacuation of residents and cancellations by visitors. The revenues were \$185,221, up almost 5 percent from February 2006. The tax on lodging and liquor by the drink is 2 percent, while building material sales and retail items are taxed at 1 percent. This revenue goes into the general fund to subsidize public transit, land acquisition and police and fire services. Interestingly, liquor and building material sales showed a decline in both January and February. The big numbers were with condo receipts, up 40 percent in January year-over-year and almost 12 percent in February compared to February 2006. Retail was also a big finisher, up 8 percent in February year-over-year and contributing 60 percent of all the city's local option receipts. Local option taxes are allowed for small resort communities. The Legislature has rejected extending the option to all communities.

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SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO

Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida & Power counties

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

Nonfarm payrolls grew by more than 400 from February to March to erase a year-over-year job loss and left the Pocatello area with 280 more jobs than a year earlier. Increased jobs in the goods producing sector ran counter to the national trend. Even with construction down more than 6 percent from a year ago, that typically higher-paying sector still had 90 more jobs than in March 2007. On the service side, job growth in leisure and hospitality, retail and wholesale trade and education was more than offset by fewer jobs in professional and business services, which include temporary employment agencies, call centers and some construction-related

work. Local call centers have not refilled many of the jobs that are typically cut during the post-holiday season.

Fewer people were working or looking for work but more of them were without jobs in March, and that pushed the unemployment rate up two-tenths of a percentage point in the Pocatello Metropolitan Statistical Area. While a 2.9 percent unemployment rate is still considered low, a labor force that is smaller than a year ago is of some concern. There appears to be several contributing factors. Some workers have obviously left the area to find better-paying jobs, some have returned to school to increase their earning potential, some households with two wage earners may have decided the lower paying of their jobs was not covering the cost of child care and escalating fuel prices, and others may have retired and their jobs not filled as businesses reorganized to become more efficient.

Four counties in the area experienced slightly higher unemployment rates than in February, and only four counties experienced higher rates than a year earlier. As a region, the unemployment rate was two-tenths of a point below the statewide unemployment rate and up only one-tenth of a percentage point from February. See table below.

COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

BANNOCK COUNTY

- Development talks continue between Richland, Wash.,-based IsoRay, the Idaho National Laboratory and Idaho State University about producing radioactive isotopes to treat cancer. Recent news releases indicate a shuttle device needed to operate the irradiation system could be ready to be installed by Sept. 30, 2008.
- The long-proposed connector between Bannock Highway and South Fifth in Pocatello has cleared an environmental assessment hurdle and construction could begin in mid-2009 if other procedural steps are met without difficulty.
- Dillard's will close its Pine Ridge Mall department store, idling 75 full-time and part-time workers. Store

Unemployment Rate in Southeastern Idaho by County

County	Unemployment Rate March 2007	Unemployment Rate March 2008	Unemployment Rate February 2008
Bannock	2.8	2.9	2.7
Bear Lake	2.1	2.0	1.8
Bingham	2.6	2.4	2.4
Caribou	2.9	2.1	2.1
Franklin	1.9	2.2	1.8
Oneida	1.6	1.8	1.9
Power	2.7	2.9	2.8
Southeastern Region	2.6	2.6	2.5
State of Idaho	2.8	3.0	2.8

management said the company decided to reduce the number of stores it operated. Sales at the Pocatello store were up 3 percent in the last year.

BEAR LAKE

- Triad Resorts plans to start construction of a \$7 million modular motel manufacturing plant in Montpelier in August. The company makes rooms that are shipped to the motel location and linked together. The plant's first project will be a \$100 million hotel-casino for Jackpot, Nev. Triad will operate the Spanish Bit Casino and Resort. Triad will employ 150 at the Montpelier plant, most working in assembly construction for \$12 to \$17 an hour and benefits. Workers will receive initial training from the company as they build an on-site affordable 80 unit apartment building for themselves. Recognizing the strong need for energy efficient and environmentally friendly buildings, Triad Resorts will only build structures which will meet certification standards of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Building Rating System. Readers can learn more about the company on the Web site at www.TriadResorts.com.
- The Montpelier City Council authorized a \$750 payment to Pocatello Transit Authority to begin door-to-door transportation for those who schedule 24 hours or more in advance. Riders will be asked to help defray cost with a \$3 donation per trip.
- Hook Canyon Energy LLC has proposed a Pump Storage Hydroelectric project to be located in Hook Canyon, which straddles the Idaho-Utah in Bear Lake County. The company filed a pre-application last September with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which began its assessment and analysis in April prior to preparing an Environmental Impact Statement. That statement will determine under what conditions a license for the project will be issued.

BINGHAM COUNTY

- The Bingham County Planning and Zoning Commission held two public hearings for capacity crowds on before approving a proposed wind energy farm in the foothills of Wolverine Canyon. The project proposed by Ridgeline Energy calls for 150 wind turbines about 490 feet high on approximately 324 acres.
- Bio-Environmental Resources Recovery International has asked the Bingham County Commission for a five-year contract to continue decomposing biological waste at the county landfill using microbes. The company also wants to build a production facility. The experiment it started last year proved more successful than anticipated and it appears the process may be commercially feasible.

CARIBOU COUNTY

- Soda Springs School District voters approved the annual \$556,000 supplemental levy by an 82 percent majority.
- Caribou County residents are being served by another medical doctor. Internist and pediatrician Nita Weber has 18 years of experience. She has opened her practice in Soda Springs.
- Grace Dam is undergoing \$1 million in improvements that will make the head gates safer. To facilitate construction, a company has been hired to pump water over the dam for a few weeks and water releases are scheduled on weekends to accommodate recreationists.
- After 30 years in business, Mullen Crane was sold to Seattle-based NC Services Group, which is a subsidiary of Northwest Capital Appreciation. Mullen Crane grew from a small local operation to one of the largest crane and transport companies in the western United States. Financial details were not made public, but part of the deal requires the company to remain in Soda Springs. The new owners will also retain all the Mullen family members and existing employees who want to continue working for the new company.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

- After several years of planning, the main street through south Preston will be rebuilt beginning in mid-May. The project will require power lines to be moved and new sidewalks and water lines installed. Federal funds are paying for 93 percent of the project, and the city is paying the rest.
- The Franklin County Grain Growers have opened their new 7,200-square-foot retail store. The store features ample parking and several new and expanded departments with future plans for a convenience store and gasoline pumps.

ONEIDA COUNTY

- Rocky Mountain Power officials and Oneida County residents continued discussing the route for the proposed 345 kilovolt electric transmission line. Some changes to the initial route have been made, which appear to benefit both sides. More options are being evaluated as concerns from all parties affected by construction are being considered.
- County Assessor Dixie Hubbard told county commissioners that most property owners will see an increase in property values when they receive their assessments in June because counties are required by state law to ensure property assessments are between 90 percent and 110 percent of market value. Hubbard said assessed values have not been raised

since 2003, and she indicated that in general property values are \$20,000 to \$30,000 lower than market value.

- Approximately 52 Malad area residents will lose their jobs when La-Z-Boy Inc. closes its Tremonton, Utah, plant. The company is consolidating its domestic cutting and sewing operations in Mexico, which will allow it to consolidate production to other sites in the United States. The Utah facility employed 630.

POWER COUNTY

- Southeast Idaho Energy continues to hold public information meetings and discussions on its proposed coal gasification plant. Company representatives indicated in a meeting with U.S. Senator Larry Craig that investors for the project are lined up and the permit process with the Department of Environmental Quality is going smoothly. The Front End Engineering and Design study will be completed in less than a year and construction could begin shortly thereafter in spring or summer 2009.
- Bob Knudsen has purchased Thunderbird Irrigation and moved the headquarters of the nationally recognized dealer to American Falls. Prior to purchasing Thunderbird, Knudson Irrigation was the largest Thunderbird retailer in the United States. He now feels he will be better able to support customer needs and increase dealership opportunities.
- Since 2005 Windland Inc. has been actively collecting data on wind speed, direction and air temperature from five towers in Power County. It is one of two sites in Idaho being evaluated by Windland for a wind generating project, and the data look promising. Company officials are reluctant to give a timeline for construction but indicated about 200 workers would be needed. Ten employees would run the generating facility. Windland, Inc. is developer, owner and operator of wind power projects. More information is available at www.windland.com.
- A special use permit was granted to Jon Issak for a 350-yard golf driving range on 10 acres just off Exit 33 on Interstate 86 about 6 miles west of American Falls. Issak is uncertain how much it will cost to develop the range but he has a unique scheme for operating it. Range balls will be dispensed by vending machines in a 10-foot-by-12-foot building.

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EAST CENTRAL IDAHO

Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison & Teton counties

BONNEVILLE COUNTY

- A new women's transitional "safe and sober" housing facility is located on Idaho Falls southwest side in what used to be the Evergreen Gables Motel. The

Ruth House was initiated last August and is under renovation room by room. A third of the 34 rooms are finished and half of the rooms are waiting for adopting organizations to take them on. The Ruth House functions only with volunteers and community donations. Besides having four apartments, the upstairs of the main building is an emergency shelter where up to 10 women can stay in a dorm-style setting for up to 90 days and then transition into the apartments, where they can stay for up to three years. They can pay for their stay or apply for state grants. The women are encouraged to work, save money and get high school diplomas or equivalents through The Haven, another women's shelter just down the road. Workshops are also offered to teach the women life skills. Call 522-1751 to adopt rooms, make donations or get more information.

- Bill Robertson, president of Eastern Idaho Technical College, has announced that he will not renew his contract when it expires in June. After 37 years with the school, Robertson has decided to "look at alternatives." Robertson was hired during the college's second year of operation to counsel veterans. He held several other positions before becoming president in mid-2004. As president, he oversaw construction of the \$10 million health care building.

BUTTE COUNTY

- The Idaho National Laboratory is breaking ground on a \$5 million radiochemistry laboratory at the Materials and Fuels Complex between Idaho Falls and Arco. Eagle Rock Timber of Idaho Falls is the contractor. The new facility will consolidate some existing laboratories that are being demolished as part of the Idaho Cleanup Project. The facility will support such programs as the Advanced Fuel Cycle Initiative to reduce volume and near-term heat generation of spent nuclear fuel waste. The initiative also develops proliferation-resistant separation processes for used nuclear fuel from light-water reactors. The new facility is an effort to upgrade the INL's research facilities and will be built as a "green" building with recycled materials and energy-efficient technology.

TETON COUNTY

- County Planning and Zoning Administrator Kurt Hibbert resigned in April, citing change in the environment and expectations during his years with the county. He said it was time to move on. Teton County has experienced significant growth and challenges over the past several years. It still faces development pressures, and changes continue to occur as the county is shaped and molded into a "millionaire's haven." Lori Grebe is acting as interim administrator.

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State of Idaho Data — March 2008

March 2008 Labor Force (preliminary) compared to March 2007 data *(continued on page 28)*.

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Mar 2008				Mar 2007			
	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- ployed	% Unem- ployed	Total Employment	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- ployed	% Unem- ployed	Total Employment
STATE OF IDAHO	756,169	22,327	3.0	733,842	750,544	20,802	2.8	729,742
COUNTIES								
ADA (1)	195,260	5,409	2.8	189,851	195,851	4,450	2.3	191,401
ADAMS	2,222	168	7.6	2,054	2,351	137	5.8	2,214
BANNOCK (8)	38,922	1,135	2.9	37,788	40,213	1,121	2.8	39,091
BEAR LAKE	3,160	63	2.0	3,096	3,042	63	2.1	2,979
BENEWAH	3,901	322	8.3	3,579	3,860	290	7.5	3,570
BINGHAM	21,658	520	2.4	21,138	21,582	571	2.6	21,011
BLAINE (5)	14,007	342	2.4	13,665	13,746	331	2.4	13,414
BOISE (1)	3,756	147	3.9	3,609	3,768	130	3.4	3,638
BONNER	20,629	915	4.4	19,714	20,267	882	4.4	19,385
BONNEVILLE (6)	50,925	1,023	2.0	49,902	49,979	1,021	2.0	48,958
BOUNDARY	4,069	294	7.2	3,775	4,138	282	6.8	3,856
BUTTE	1,600	33	2.1	1,566	1,444	35	2.4	1,408
CAMAS (5)	633	17	2.6	616	617	13	2.0	604
CANYON (1)	82,373	2,912	3.5	79,460	82,540	2,431	2.9	80,109
CARIBOU	3,271	68	2.1	3,202	3,320	95	2.9	3,225
CASSIA (2)	9,973	243	2.4	9,729	10,005	298	3.0	9,707
CLARK	525	11	2.1	515	514	11	2.2	503
CLEARWATER	3,310	328	9.9	2,982	3,334	329	9.9	3,005
CUSTER	2,581	66	2.5	2,516	2,650	70	2.7	2,579
ELMORE	11,102	350	3.2	10,752	11,143	364	3.3	10,779
FRANKLIN	6,314	136	2.2	6,177	6,165	119	1.9	6,046
FREMONT (9)	6,699	192	2.9	6,508	6,436	171	2.7	6,265
GEM (1)	7,401	293	4.0	7,109	7,409	242	3.3	7,167
GOODING	8,548	178	2.1	8,369	8,079	176	2.2	7,904
IDAHO	7,420	360	4.9	7,059	7,256	362	5.0	6,894
JEFFERSON (6)	11,193	249	2.2	10,944	10,978	241	2.2	10,737
JEROME (10)	10,209	248	2.4	9,961	10,100	252	2.5	9,848
KOOTENAI (3)	72,725	2,274	3.1	70,451	69,250	2,058	3.0	67,192
LATAH	18,399	496	2.7	17,903	18,052	511	2.8	17,542
LEMHI	4,051	153	3.8	3,899	4,060	153	3.8	3,907
LEWIS (4)	1,811	37	2.0	1,774	1,770	38	2.1	1,732
LINCOLN	2,575	82	3.2	2,494	2,541	73	2.9	2,468
MADISON (9)	16,248	270	1.7	15,978	15,661	280	1.8	15,382
MINIDOKA (2)	9,318	246	2.6	9,072	9,390	340	3.6	9,050
NEZ PERCE (7)	18,927	479	2.5	18,448	19,386	503	2.6	18,882
ONEIDA	2,330	43	1.8	2,287	2,200	35	1.6	2,165
OWYHEE (1)	4,795	78	1.6	4,717	4,833	78	1.6	4,755
PAYETTE	10,471	371	3.5	10,101	10,478	417	4.0	10,061
POWER (8)	3,668	108	2.9	3,560	3,784	102	2.7	3,682
SHOSHONE	5,499	293	5.3	5,206	5,619	319	5.7	5,300
TETON	5,094	85	1.7	5,009	4,784	66	1.4	4,718
TWIN FALLS (10)	38,146	851	2.2	37,295	37,801	934	2.5	36,867
VALLEY	5,326	288	5.4	5,038	4,947	219	4.4	4,728
WASHINGTON	5,125	152	3.0	4,973	5,200	190	3.7	5,010
ASOTIN WA (7)	10,601	589	5.6	10,012	10,692	418	3.9	10,274

* In thousands

March 2008 Labor Force (preliminary) compared to March 2007 data *(continued from page 27)*

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Mar 2008				Mar 2007			
	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- ployed	% Unem- ployed	Total Employment	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- ployed	% Unem- ployed	Total Employment
LABOR MARKET AREAS								
BOISE CITY-NAMPA MSA (1)	293,585	8,839	3.0	284,746	294,401	7,331	2.5	287,070
BURLEY MicSA (2)	19,291	489	2.5	18,801	19,396	638	3.3	18,758
COEUR D'ALENE MSA (3)	72,725	2,274	3.1	70,451	69,250	2,058	3.0	67,192
GRANGEVILLE SLMA (4)	9,231	397	4.3	8,833	9,026	400	4.4	8,626
HAILEY SLMA (5)	14,640	359	2.4	14,281	14,363	344	2.4	14,019
IDAHO FALLS MSA (6)	62,117	1,271	2.0	60,846	60,957	1,262	2.1	59,695
LEWISTON MSA (7)	29,528	1,068	3.6	28,460	30,078	922	3.1	29,156
POCATELLO MSA (8)	42,590	1,243	2.9	41,347	43,996	1,223	2.8	42,773
REXBURG MicSA (9)	22,947	461	2.0	22,486	22,097	450	2.0	21,647
TWIN FALLS MicSA (10)	48,355	1,099	2.3	47,256	47,901	1,186	2.5	46,715
CITIES								
BOISE	111,886	3,211	2.9	108,675	112,611	2,597	2.3	110,014
CALDWELL	17,306	800	4.6	16,506	17,310	601	3.5	16,710
COEUR D' ALENE	23,286	828	3.6	22,458	22,171	663	3.0	21,508
IDAHO FALLS	28,695	671	2.3	28,024	28,274	665	2.4	27,609
LEWISTON	15,789	413	2.6	15,377	16,207	403	2.5	15,804
MERIDIAN	31,632	905	2.9	30,727	31,831	724	2.3	31,106
NAMPA	36,466	1,382	3.8	35,085	36,659	1,142	3.1	35,517
POCATELLO	27,651	837	3.0	26,813	28,619	768	2.7	27,852
TWIN FALLS	21,030	518	2.5	20,512	20,905	544	2.6	20,361
United States*	153,784	7,815	5.1	145,969	152,884	6,738	4.4	146,145

* In thousands

SOURCE: Idaho Department of Labor, Research & Analysis and Public Affairs

State of Idaho Data

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

BY PLACE OF WORK	Mar 2008*	Feb 2008	Mar 2007	Last Month	Last Year
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	643,200	638,800	643,700	0.7	-0.1
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	111,800	112,300	119,800	-0.4	-6.7
<i>Natural Resources & Mining</i>	4,000	4,300	3,800	-7.0	5.3
Logging	1,300	1,600	1,400	-18.8	-7.1
Mining	2,700	2,700	2,400	0.0	12.5
Metal Ore Mining	1,100	1,100	900	0.0	22.2
<i>Construction</i>	45,300	45,000	49,800	0.7	-9.0
<i>Manufacturing</i>	62,500	63,000	66,200	-0.8	-5.6
Durable Goods	39,800	40,100	42,900	-0.7	-7.2
Wood Product Manufacturing	7,000	7,100	7,800	-1.4	-10.3
Sawmills & Wood Preservation	2,100	2,200	2,500	-4.5	-16.0
Veneer & Engineered Products	1,400	1,400	1,500	0.0	-6.7
Other Wood Product Manufacturing	3,500	3,500	3,800	0.0	-7.9
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	4,700	4,700	4,500	0.0	4.4
Machinery Manufacturing	3,100	3,100	2,900	0.0	6.9
Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing	14,400	14,500	17,000	-0.7	-15.3
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	3,600	3,600	3,500	0.0	2.9
Other Durable Goods	7,000	7,100	7,200	-1.4	-2.8
Nondurable Goods	22,700	22,900	23,300	-0.9	-2.6
Food Manufacturing	14,400	14,400	14,600	0.0	-1.4
Fruits & Vegetable Preserving & Specialty	7,200	7,200	7,400	0.0	-2.7
Paper Manufacturing	1,700	1,700	1,700	0.0	0.0
Printing & Related Support Activities	1,900	1,800	1,900	5.6	0.0
Chemical Manufacturing	2,300	2,300	2,200	0.0	4.5
Other Nondurable Goods	2,400	2,700	2,900	-11.1	-17.2
SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	531,400	526,500	523,900	0.9	1.4
<i>Trade, Transportation, & Utilities</i>	129,400	128,200	130,300	0.9	-0.7
Trade	109,000	107,700	109,900	1.2	-0.8
Wholesale Trade	27,000	27,200	27,700	-0.7	-2.5
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	12,500	12,600	12,800	-0.8	-2.3
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	11,300	11,300	12,000	0.0	-5.8
Retail Trade	82,000	80,500	82,200	1.9	-0.2
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	12,700	12,500	12,300	1.6	3.3
Building Material and Garden Equipment	9,000	8,600	9,500	4.7	-5.3
Food & Beverage Stores	12,200	12,100	12,500	0.8	-2.4
General Merchandise Stores	16,900	16,600	17,400	1.8	-2.9
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	20,400	20,500	20,400	-0.5	0.0
Utilities	2,000	2,000	2,000	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	18,400	18,500	18,400	-0.5	0.0
Rail Transportation	1,300	1,300	1,300	0.0	0.0
Truck Transportation	9,300	9,300	9,200	0.0	1.1
Information	11,000	10,900	10,700	0.9	2.8
Telecommunications	4,000	4,000	4,000	0.0	0.0
<i>Financial Activities</i>	31,700	31,600	32,100	0.3	-1.2
Finance & Insurance	23,400	23,400	23,600	0.0	-0.8
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	8,300	8,200	8,500	1.2	-2.4
<i>Professional & Business Services</i>	79,600	78,800	80,300	1.0	-0.9
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	33,700	33,800	33,300	-0.3	1.2
Scientific Research & Development	7,600	7,700	5,500	-1.3	38.2
Management of Companies & Enterprises	7,300	7,600	7,700	-3.9	-5.2
Administrative & Support & Waste Management	38,600	37,400	39,300	3.2	-1.8
Administrative & Support Services	37,600	36,200	37,100	3.9	1.3
<i>Educational & Health Services</i>	75,400	74,600	73,100	1.1	3.1
Educational Services	8,700	8,600	8,800	1.2	-1.1
Health Care & Social Assistance	66,700	66,000	64,300	1.1	3.7
Hospitals	16,500	16,300	15,200	1.2	8.6
<i>Leisure & Hospitality</i>	62,600	61,600	60,700	1.6	3.1
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	8,700	8,600	8,500	1.2	2.4
Accommodation & Food Services	53,900	53,000	52,200	1.7	3.3
Accommodation	9,500	9,200	8,400	3.3	13.1
Food Services & Drinking Places	44,400	43,800	43,800	1.4	1.4
<i>Other Services</i>	19,600	19,400	19,200	1.0	2.1
Total Government	122,100	121,400	117,500	0.6	3.9
Federal Government	12,200	12,100	12,100	0.8	0.8
State & Local Government	109,900	109,300	105,400	0.5	4.3
State Government	30,800	30,700	29,800	0.3	3.4
State Government Education	15,600	15,200	15,000	2.6	4.0
State Government Administration	15,200	15,500	14,800	-1.9	2.7
Local Government	79,100	78,600	75,600	0.6	4.6
Local Government Education	42,100	41,800	40,900	0.7	2.9
Local Government Administration	33,700	33,500	31,500	0.6	7.0
Local Government Tribes	3,300	3,300	3,200	0.0	3.1

*Preliminary Estimate ** Estimates include all full or part time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay in the following industry groups during the pay period ending nearest the 12th of the month.

State of Idaho Data

State Economic Indicators

				% Change From	
	Mar 2008	Feb 2008	Mar 2007	Last Month	Last Year
IDAHO LABOR FORCE ⁽¹⁾					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	756,200	755,300	750,500	0.1	0.8
Unemployment	22,400	21,500	20,800	4.2	7.7
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	3.0	2.8	2.8		
Total Employment	733,800	733,800	729,700	0.0	0.6
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	751,500	750,500	747,700	0.1	0.5
Unemployment	28,800	28,900	25,900	-0.3	11.2
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8	3.9	3.5		
Total Employment	722,700	721,600	721,800	0.2	0.1
U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ⁽²⁾	5.1	4.8	4.4		
U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ⁽²⁾					
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	209.1	207.3	200.6	0.9	4.2
All Urban Consumer (CPI-U)	213.5	211.7	205.4	0.9	4.0
AGRICULTURE					
Agriculture Employment	38,250	35,410	36,210	8.0	5.6
Operators	9,740	9,740	9,740	0.0	0.0
Unpaid Family	360	360	360	0.0	0.0
Hired Workers	28,150	25,310	26,110	11.2	7.8
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
<i>Claims Activities</i>					
Initial Claims ⁽³⁾	9,163	10,604	7,216	-13.6	27.0
Weeks Claimed ⁽⁴⁾	111,253	103,394	65,612	7.6	69.6
<i>Benefit Payment Activities⁽⁵⁾</i>					
Weeks Compensated	83,055	90,760	57,495	-8.5	44.5
Total Benefit \$ Paid	22,016,512	23,968,191	14,163,436	-8.1	55.4
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$265.08	\$264.08	\$246.34	0.4	7.6
Covered Employers	51,291	51,533	47,511	-0.5	8.0
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months ⁽⁴⁾	\$151,034,360	\$143,181,284	\$113,875,617	5.5	32.6

(1) Preliminary Estimate

(2) Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

(3) Includes all entitlements/programs on Intrastate and Interstate Agent, New, and Additional Claims

(4) Includes all entitlements/programs, Intrastate and Interstate Agent

(5) Includes all entitlements/programs, Total Liable Activities

Coeur d'Alene MSA Labor Force & Employment — Kootenai County

	Mar 2008*	Feb 2008	Mar 2007	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	72,720	71,980	69,250	1.0	5.0
Unemployed	2,270	2,350	2,060	-3.4	10.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.1	3.3	3.0		
Total Employment	70,450	69,630	67,190	1.2	4.9
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	71,310	71,660	68,010	-0.5	4.9
Unemployed	3,250	3,500	2,840	-7.1	14.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.6	4.9	4.2		
Total Employment	68,060	68,160	65,170	-0.1	4.4
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	56,400	56,120	53,440	0.5	5.5
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	10,100	10,180	10,480	-0.8	-3.6
Natural Resources & Mining	400	450	400	-11.1	0.0
Construction	5,020	5,000	5,390	0.4	-6.9
Manufacturing	4,680	4,730	4,690	-1.1	-0.2
<i>Wood Product Manufacturing</i>	850	880	930	-3.4	-8.6
<i>Other Manufacturing</i>	3,830	3,850	3,760	-0.5	1.9
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	46,300	45,940	42,960	0.8	7.8
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	11,120	10,930	10,630	1.7	4.6
<i>Wholesale Trade</i>	1,620	1,620	1,560	0.0	3.8
<i>Retail Trade</i>	8,460	8,260	7,970	2.4	6.1
<i>Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities</i>	1,040	1,050	1,100	-1.0	-5.5
Information	980	980	1,030	0.0	-4.9
Financial Activities	3,080	3,060	2,930	0.7	5.1
Professional & Business Services	5,680	5,660	5,700	0.4	-0.4
Educational & Health Services	5,900	5,840	5,570	1.0	5.9
Leisure & Hospitality	8,030	8,030	6,760	0.0	18.8
Other Services	1,530	1,520	1,470	0.7	4.1
Government Education	3,760	3,740	3,740	0.5	0.5
Government Administration	5,360	5,340	5,100	0.4	5.1
Government Tribes	860	840	760	2.4	13.2

* Preliminary estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

North Central Idaho Data — March 2008

Lewiston MSA Labor Force & Employment — Nez Perce County, Idaho, and Asotin County, Wash.

	Mar 2008*	Feb 2008	Mar 2007	<u>% Change From</u>	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	29,530	29,440	30,080	0.3	-1.8
Unemployment	1,070	1,310	920	-18.3	16.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.6	4.4	3.1		
Total Employment	28,460	28,130	29,160	1.2	-2.4
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	29,530	29,410	30,090	0.4	-1.9
Unemployment	1,350	1,440	1,140	-6.3	18.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.6	4.9	3.8		
Total Employment	28,180	27,970	28,950	0.8	-2.7
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	27,370	27,010	27,200	1.3	0.6
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	4,870	4,700	4,570	3.6	6.6
Natural Resources & Mining	190	190	210	0.0	-9.5
Construction	1,300	1,160	1,200	12.1	8.3
Manufacturing	3,380	3,350	3,160	0.9	7.0
Wood Product Manufacturing	540	570	590	-5.3	-8.5
Paper Manufacturing	1,110	1,150	1,110	-3.5	0.0
Other Manufacturing	1,730	1,630	1,460	6.1	18.5
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	22,500	22,310	22,630	0.9	-0.6
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	5,600	5,600	5,410	0.0	3.5
Wholesale Trade	620	620	690	0.0	-10.1
Retail Trade	3,810	3,790	3,560	0.5	7.0
Utilities	90	90	90	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	1,080	1,100	1,100	-1.8	-1.8
Information	380	380	420	0.0	-9.5
Financial Activities	1,770	1,770	2,100	0.0	-15.7
Professional & Business Services	1,560	1,560	1,580	0.0	-1.3
Education & Health Services	4,210	4,120	4,280	2.2	-1.6
Leisure & Hospitality	2,570	2,520	2,630	2.0	-2.3
Other Services	1,090	1,090	1,120	0.0	-2.7
Government Education	2,530	2,670	2,530	-5.2	0.0
Government Administration	2,090	1,900	1,850	10.0	13.0
Government Tribes	700	650	690	7.7	1.4

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Boise City-Nampa MSA Labor Force & Employment – Ada, Canyon, Boise, Gem and Owyhee counties

	Mar 2008*	Feb 2008	Mar 2007	% Change	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	293,500	296,600	294,400	-1.0	-0.3
Unemployment	8,800	8,400	7,300	4.8	20.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.0	2.8	2.5		
Total Employment	284,700	288,200	287,100	-1.2	-0.8
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	295,400	295,900	296,700	-0.2	-0.4
Unemployment	10,800	10,800	8,600	0.0	25.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.6	3.6	2.9		
Total Employment	284,600	285,100	288,100	-0.2	-1.2
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	271,900	270,400	273,300	0.6	-0.5
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES					
<i>Natural Resources & Construction</i>	20,000	20,300	23,200	-1.5	-13.8
Construction	19,700	20,000	23,000	-1.5	-14.3
<i>Manufacturing</i>	29,200	29,400	31,600	-0.7	-7.6
Durable Goods	22,600	22,800	25,300	-0.9	-10.7
Wood Product Manufacturing	2,400	2,300	2,400	4.3	0.0
Fabricated Metal Products Mfg.	1,500	1,500	1,600	0.0	-6.3
Machinery Manufacturing	1,200	1,200	1,200	0.0	0.0
Computer & Electronic Manufacturing	12,700	12,800	15,200	-0.8	-16.4
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	2,400	2,500	2,400	-4.0	0.0
Other Durable Goods	2,400	2,500	2,500	-4.0	-4.0
Nondurable Goods	6,600	6,600	6,300	0.0	4.8
Food Manufacturing	4,600	4,600	4,300	0.0	7.0
Printing & Related Support Activities	700	700	800	0.0	-12.5
Other Nondurable Goods	1,300	1,300	1,200	0.0	8.3
SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES					
<i>Trade, Transportation, & Utilities</i>	52,900	52,500	53,400	0.8	-0.9
Trade	44,800	44,300	45,800	1.1	-2.2
Wholesale Trade	12,500	12,400	12,400	0.8	0.8
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	7,200	7,100	7,000	1.4	2.9
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	4,000	3,900	3,900	2.6	2.6
Retail Trade	32,300	31,900	33,400	1.3	-3.3
Food & Beverage Stores	4,300	4,300	4,500	0.0	-4.4
General Merchandise Stores	7,100	6,900	7,300	2.9	-2.7
All Other Retail Trade	20,900	20,700	21,600	1.0	-3.2
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	8,100	8,200	7,600	-1.2	6.6
Utilities	600	700	700	-14.3	-14.3
Transportation & Warehousing	7,500	7,500	6,900	0.0	8.7
<i>Information</i>	4,900	4,900	4,600	0.0	6.5
Telecommunications	1,300	1,300	1,400	0.0	-7.1
<i>Financial Activities</i>	14,000	13,900	15,100	0.7	-7.3
Finance & Insurance	10,200	10,200	10,900	0.0	-6.4
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	3,800	3,700	4,200	2.7	-9.5
<i>Professional & Business Services</i>	40,000	39,000	39,900	2.6	0.3
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	13,500	13,500	12,400	0.0	8.9
Management of Companies & Ent.	5,700	5,800	5,800	-1.7	-1.7
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt.	20,800	19,700	21,700	5.6	-4.1
<i>Educational & Health Services</i>	34,700	34,500	32,500	0.6	6.8
Educational Services	3,200	3,100	2,900	3.2	10.3
Health Care & Social Assistance	31,500	31,400	29,600	0.3	6.4
Hospitals	10,100	10,000	9,400	1.0	7.4
<i>Leisure & Hospitality</i>	23,500	23,000	24,700	2.2	-4.9
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	2,300	2,300	3,400	0.0	-32.4
Accommodation & Food Services	21,200	20,700	21,300	2.4	-0.5
Accommodation	2,300	2,100	2,400	9.5	-4.2
Food Services & Drinking Places	18,900	18,600	18,900	1.6	0.0
<i>Other Services</i>	8,200	8,200	6,900	0.0	18.8
<i>Total Government</i>	44,500	44,700	41,400	-0.4	7.5
Federal Government	6,000	6,000	5,600	0.0	7.1
State & Local Government	38,500	38,700	35,800	-0.5	7.5
State Government	14,200	14,300	13,600	-0.7	4.4
State Government Education	5,800	6,000	4,900	-3.3	18.4
State Government Administration	8,400	8,300	8,700	1.2	-3.4
Local Government	24,300	24,400	22,200	-0.4	9.5
Local Government Education	15,300	15,200	13,900	0.7	10.1
Local Government Administration	9,000	9,200	8,300	-2.2	8.4

* Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

South Central Idaho Data — March 2008

Twin Falls-Jerome MicSA Labor Force & Employment — Twin Falls and Jerome counties

	Mar 2008*	Feb 2008	Mar 2007	<u>% Change From</u>	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	48,360	47,950	47,910	0.9	0.9
Unemployment	1,100	1,140	1,180	-3.5	-6.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.3	2.4	2.5		
Total Employment	47,260	46,810	46,730	1.0	1.1
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	47,000	47,960	46,660	-2.0	0.7
Unemployment	1,420	1,520	1,460	-6.6	-2.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.0	3.2	3.1		
Total Employment	45,580	46,440	45,200	-1.9	0.8
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	39,560	38,980	38,850	1.5	1.8
<i>Goods-Providing Industries</i>	7,080	6,810	6,870	4.0	3.1
Natural Resources & Mining	50	40	40	25.0	25.0
Construction	2,340	2,070	2,220	13.0	5.4
Manufacturing	4,690	4,700	4,610	-0.2	1.7
Food Manufacturing	2,550	2,560	2,540	-0.4	0.4
Other Manufacturing	2,140	2,140	2,070	0.0	3.4
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	32,480	32,170	31,980	1.0	1.6
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	10,100	10,240	9,830	-1.4	2.7
Wholesale Trade	2,010	1,960	1,920	2.6	4.7
Retail Trade	5,700	5,730	5,690	-0.5	0.2
Utilities	160	150	160	6.7	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	2,230	2,400	2,060	-7.1	8.3
Information	680	670	660	1.5	3.0
Financial Activities	1,670	1,720	1,700	-2.9	-1.8
Professional & Business Services	4,280	4,280	4,530	0.0	-5.5
Educational & Health Services	5,380	5,380	5,120	0.0	5.1
Leisure & Hospitality	3,200	2,930	3,060	9.2	4.6
Other Services	1,300	1,320	1,410	-1.5	-7.8
Government Education	3,490	3,280	3,390	6.4	2.9
Government Administration	2,380	2,350	2,280	1.3	4.4

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Southeastern Idaho Data — March 2008

Pocatello MSA Labor Force & Employment Bannock and Power counties

	Mar 2008*	Feb 2008	Mar 2007	<u>% Change From</u>	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	42,590	43,360	43,990	-1.8	-3.2
Unemployment	1,240	1,183	1,220	4.8	1.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.9	2.7	2.8		
Total Employment	41,350	42,177	42,770	-2.0	-3.3
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	43,260	43,330	44,800	-0.2	-3.4
Unemployment	1,580	1,550	1,500	1.9	5.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.7	3.6	3.3		
Total Employment	41,680	41,780	43,300	-0.2	-3.7
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	38,950	38,540	38,670	1.1	0.7
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	5,570	5,480	5,190	1.6	7.3
Natural Resources & Mining	30	30	30	0.0	0.0
Construction	1,670	1,620	1,780	3.1	-6.2
Manufacturing	3,870	3,830	3,380	1.0	14.5
Food Manufacturing	1,360	1,350	1,250	0.7	8.8
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	200	180	170	11.1	17.6
Machinery Manufacturing	100	100	70	0.0	42.9
Other Manufacturing	2,210	2,200	1,890	0.5	16.9
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	33,380	33,060	33,480	1.0	-0.3
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	7,490	7,420	7,190	0.9	4.2
Wholesale Trade	1,320	1,340	1,130	-1.5	16.8
Retail Trade	4,750	4,720	4,520	0.6	5.1
Utilities	60	50	50	20.0	20.0
Transportation & Warehousing	1,360	1,310	1,490	3.8	-8.7
Information	840	840	780	0.0	7.7
Financial Activities	2,120	2,130	2,130	-0.5	-0.5
Professional & Business Services	4,540	4,510	5,380	0.7	-15.6
Educational & Health Services	3,390	3,320	3,330	2.1	1.8
Leisure & Hospitality	3,790	3,660	3,520	3.6	7.7
Other Services	1,150	1,090	1,120	5.5	2.7
Government Education	6,200	6,250	6,070	-0.8	2.1
Government Administration	3,860	3,840	3,960	0.5	-2.5

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

East Central Idaho Data — March 2008

Idaho Falls MSA Labor Force & Employment — Bonneville and Jefferson counties

	Mar 2008*	Feb 2008	Mar 2007	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	62,120	62,140	60,960	0.0	1.9
Unemployment	1,270	1,280	1,260	-0.8	0.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.0%	2.1%	2.1%		
Total Employment	60,850	60,850	59,700	0.0	1.9
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	62,050	61,030	61,080	1.7	1.6
Unemployment	1,680	1,690	1,610	-0.6	4.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.7%	2.8%	2.6%		
Total Employment	60,370	59,340	59,470	1.7	1.5
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	51,790	50,920	50,020	1.7	3.5
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	7,810	7,630	7,840	2.4	-0.4
Construction & Natural Resources	4,260	4,100	4,340	3.9	-1.8
Manufacturing	3,550	3,530	3,500	0.6	1.4
Food Manufacturing	1,050	1,040	1,030	1.0	1.9
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	270	280	290	-3.6	-6.9
Machinery Manufacturing	160	160	160	0.0	0.0
Other Manufacturing	2,070	2,050	2,020	1.0	2.5
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	43,980	43,290	42,180	1.6	4.3
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	13,010	12,810	12,810	1.6	1.6
Wholesale Trade	3,390	3,380	3,390	0.3	0.0
Retail Trade	7,840	7,590	7,740	3.3	1.3
Utilities	60	60	60	0.0	0.0
Transportation	1,720	1,780	1,620	-3.4	6.2
Information	1,250	1,240	1,260	0.8	-0.8
Financial Activities	2,200	2,160	2,180	1.9	0.9
Professional & Business Services	5,330	5,310	5,620	0.4	-5.2
Educational & Health Services	7,600	7,300	7,150	4.1	6.3
Leisure & Hospitality	5,250	5,230	4,610	0.4	13.9
Other Services	2,230	2,140	1,920	4.2	16.1
Government Education	3,850	3,860	3,650	-0.3	5.5
Government Administration	3,260	3,240	2,980	0.6	9.4

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Glossary of Labor Market Terms

Agriculture Employment: Persons on agriculture payrolls who work or receive pay for any period during the survey week. This includes owners, operators, unpaid family members who work at least 15 hours a week, and hired laborers.

Average Hourly Earnings/Average Weekly Hours: The average total money earnings earned by production or non-supervisory workers for selected industries. The average number of hours worked by production or non-supervisory workers including overtime, paid vacation, and sick leave. The data is collected for the week including the 12th of the month.

Average Weekly Earnings: Average Hourly Earnings multiplied by Average Weekly Hours.

Civilian Labor Force: A count of non-institutional persons 16 years of age and over residing within a specific geographic area, excluding members of armed forces, who are classified as employed, unemployed and seeking employment, or involved in a labor dispute.

Consumer Price Index (CPI): A national index measuring changes over time in the price of a fixed market basket of goods and services. There are two indexes—the All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) represents the buying habits of about 80 percent of the non-institutional population of the United States, and the Urban Wage & Clerical Workers (CPI-W) represents 40 percent of the population.

Covered Employers: Employers who are subject to state and federal Unemployment Insurance laws.

Durable Goods: Also known as “hard goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers with a normal life expectancy of three years or more.

Employed: Individuals, 16 years of age or older, who worked at least 1 hour for pay or profit or worked at least 15 unpaid hours in a family business during the week including the 12th day of the month. Individuals are also counted as employed if they had a job but did not work because they were: ill, on vacation, in a labor dispute, prevented from working because of bad weather, or temporarily absent for similar reasons.

Initial Claim: Any notice of unemployment filed to request (1) a determination of entitlement to and eligibility for compensation or (2) a second or subsequent period of unemployment within a benefit year or period of eligibility.

Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA): Combinations of counties in which at least half the residents live in an urban center of 50,000 or more and the rest have significant commuting ties to that central county. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MSAs. Idaho has five MSAs: Boise MSA including Ada, Canyon, Boise, Gem and Owyhee counties; Bonneville MSA including Bonneville and Jefferson counties; Pocatello MSA including Bannock and Power counties; Lewiston MSA including Nez Perce County and Asotin County, Wash.; Coeur d’Alene MSA including Kootenai, Boundary, Bonner, Benewah and Shoshone counties.

Micropolitan Statistical Area (MicSA): Combinations of counties in which at least half the residents live in urban

centers totaling at least 10,000—or 5,000 living in a single urban center—and the rest have significant commuting ties to that central county. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MicSAs. Idaho has three MicSAs: Burley MicSA including Cassia and Minidoka counties; Rexburg MicSA including Madison and Fremont counties; Twin Falls MicSA including Twin Falls and Jerome counties.

Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment: Persons on nonfarm establishment payrolls (including employees on paid sick leave, paid holiday, or paid vacation) who work or receive pay for any part of the week including the 12th of the month. It is a count of jobs by place of work. It does not include self-employed, unpaid volunteer or family workers, domestic workers in households, military personnel and persons who are laid off, on leave without pay, or on strike for the entire reference period.

Nondurable Goods: Also known as “soft goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers that generally last for only a short period of time (three years or less).

Seasonally Adjusted: Data is seasonally adjusted to remove the impact of regular events that occur at the same time every year such as the effect of cold weather on outdoor activities, the Christmas holiday, or the summer influx of youth into the labor market.

Small Labor Market Areas (SLMA): Combinations of counties with significant ties through commuting patterns but no urban centers with populations of 10,000 or more. The Office of Management and Budget designates the SLMAs. Idaho has two SLMAs: Hailey SLMA including Blaine and Camas counties; Grangeville SLMA including Lewis and Idaho counties.

Unemployed: Those individuals, 16 years of age or older, who do not have a job but are available for work and actively seeking work during the week including the 12th of the month. The only exceptions to these criteria are individuals who are waiting to be recalled from a layoff and individuals waiting to report to a new job within 30 days—these, too, are considered unemployed.

Unemployment Insurance: Unemployment Insurance is a program for the accumulation of funds paid by employers, to be used for the payment of Unemployment Insurance to workers during periods of unemployment which are beyond their control.

Unemployment Rate: The number of persons unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labor force.

Weekly Benefit Amount: The amount payable to a claimant for a compensable week of total unemployment.

Weeks Claimed: The number of weeks that unemployed workers claimed Unemployment Insurance benefits.

Weeks Compensated: The number of weeks for which compensation was actually paid.